

Series 2000-2001

Circular Letter C-13

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Regional Educational Service Center Directors
School Business Officials

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi
Commissioner of Education

DATE: December 27, 2000

SUBJECT: Implementation of Administrative Deadlines on School Construction Projects to Correct Code Violations and Roof Replacements

The existing statutes governing school construction require applicant districts to secure local funding authorization within one year of General Assembly approval and to begin construction within two years of state approval. These provisions help ensure a timely process for moving construction forward and for canceling those projects for which there is not sufficient local support. The statutes also provide for direct approval by the Commissioner for projects of an emergency nature, code corrections and, most recently, roof replacements.

Perhaps because these types of projects carry a certain urgency, it was understood that they would move quickly and no statutory progress deadlines were created. Unfortunately, we have found in many cases that these projects do not go forward for years, if at all. Keeping these projects open on our records can be misleading in our financial forecasts and requires follow-up activities on our part that would be unnecessary if these projects were required to adhere to reasonable timelines. Consequently, we are going to begin applying comparable time limits for projects authorized directly by the Department. The schedule for implementing this change is described below. No project impacted by this change will have a funding deadline earlier than June 30, 2002 or a construction deadline earlier than June 30, 2003, so there is ample time to comply. All future project approval letters will include the applicable deadline for both funding and construction.

For new applications, the local funding authorization deadline will be June 30 following the one-year anniversary of the submission of the grant application. The deadline to start construction will be one additional year beyond that (i.e., grant applications submitted between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001 will have until June 30, 2002 to receive local funding authorization and until June 30, 2003 to start construction). All projects to correct code violations authorized prior to July 1, 2000 will be required to receive local funding authorization prior to June 30, 2002 and to start construction prior to June 30, 2003. Based on information provided by the district, the Commissioner may determine that an extension to either or both of the deadlines is warranted.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the School Facilities Unit at david.wedge@po.state.ct.us or (860) 566-2222.

TSS:rbk

cc: Robert Brewer
David Wedge
Mark Stapleton