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State and Consumer Services Agency

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

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TO: ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN GOOD REPAIR EVALUATION INSTRUMENT EFFECTIVE: JULY 1, 2009

On May 27, 2009, the State Allocation Board (SAB) adopted an updated version of the Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) as one of several accountability and performance measures resulting from the settlement agreement in the case of *Williams v. California*. The purpose of the revisions to the FIT was to align the evaluation results with realistic expectations of what constitutes good, fair or poor facility conditions. By accurately reflecting school facility conditions, the FIT will enable school districts to improve their assessments of actual maintenance needs and costs.

A workgroup of experts and practitioners from county offices of education and school districts across the State reconvened in the fall of 2008 to reexamine the FIT. This group discussed possible revisions to the structure as well as the ranking and scoring parameters. The group then tested the proposed revisions against actual inspection evaluations to align the scoring system and ranking calculations to the site conditions noted by evaluators.

The OPSC presented the group's findings and proposals to the SAB Implementation Committee at the May 1, 2009 meeting. During these discussions, Committee and audience members supported the proposed revisions with no objections and indicated that reporting school conditions more accurately will help to improve communication of school site needs. By utilizing the revised FIT, school districts will have a more accurate tool to determine actual maintenance needs.

School districts are obligated under *Williams* to initiate a facility inspection system to ensure that all schools are maintained in good repair. In its annual School Accountability Report Card (SARC), school districts must report any needed maintenance to establish good repair of all school facilities. The FIT includes the definition of good repair, and, thus, is an integral part in meeting both requirements.

Beginning July 1, 2009, school districts and county offices of education will begin using the revised FIT to ensure that all California school children have access to clean, safe and functional school facilities as required by the *Williams* settlement. Please visit the OPSC website at www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov to download a copy of the latest version of the FIT and to view an example of a completed evaluation.