

Viewpoints

Smaller School Districts Call for Equity in California's Educational Facilities



Many small school districts in California are facing significant challenges with aging and deteriorating school facilities. These issues include outdated buildings, mold, inadequate heating and cooling systems, and overall poor conditions that impact the learning environment.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature are debating how to distribute facilities funding for the projected November ballot bond initiative, and some fear that small rural school districts will not get their fair share of funding. The result may be that students attending schools that have the least political power and the highest facility needs will be left behind. And more often than not, those schools serve students who are socio-economically disadvantaged and of color.

Sadly, small districts often struggle with funding disparities compared to larger districts, which affects their ability to maintain and upgrade school facilities. Limited local tax revenue and higher construction costs in rural areas



exacerbate these challenges. As a solution, we expect to see small school districts band into coalitions to garner more funding for student equity.

Sadly, the quality of a student's educational facilities experience in California has become defined by a student's ZIP code.

To read more, visit

Professionals



Jennifer E. Oliva

Associate

Inland Empire

951.215.4908

joliva@f3law.com