



School Facilities Leadership Academy Participant Application 2026/2027

**A Partnership Between California's Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH)
and
The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT)**

School Facilities Leadership Academy Application

Overview

The CASH School Facilities Leadership Academy (CSFLA) is designed and delivered by a Core Faculty that are seasoned professionals with specialties in the areas of K-12 school facilities and serve from both the public and private sectors in CASH. The scope of learning is wide-ranging, and includes comprehensive facility planning, financing, site acquisition and management, architectural design, planning and construction, program management and accountability, M&O, and safety. This year-long, intensive program provides professional training to current and future school facility leaders in areas including modernization, new construction, and maintenance of the community's public schools. Graduates of SFLA are prepared to deliver exceptional services in school facilities construction, management and operations, and provide extraordinary leadership and stewardship of public school resources.

Academy Elements

- Each participant is teamed with a mentor
- Mentors frequently interact and evaluate participants' progress
- Participants develop and respond frequently to self and group assessments
- Participants are expected to lead, assist and follow within their selected teams
- Frequent team and individual presentations are required, as well as monthly homework assignments

Learning Objectives

- Leadership, including integrity, influence, character, inspiring a vision, and motivation
- Management, including personnel issues, operational systems and efficiencies, and organizational leveraging
- Collaboration, including teamwork and a collective approach to problem solving
- Technical competence and best practices
- Communication, both written and verbal
- Political context, at the department, cabinet, local and state levels

Qualifications

- Interest in becoming a school facilities leader or honing leadership skills
- Support from their employer and immediate supervisor
- Current involvement in a major facet of school facility planning/management
- Leadership skills within their current career placement
- Ability to work, organize, and plan for team activities
- Access to public school facility-related data, which may be integrated into the Academy curriculum
- Proficiency in both spoken and written communication

Application Packet

A complete application includes: Completion of the online application form, attach a 1-page resume or curriculum vitae, and answer the following questions on a separate document (PDF or Word documents may be uploaded.)

1. Why do you think you would make an excellent candidate for the School Facilities Leadership Academy?
2. Referencing the required qualifications above, what are your strengths and weaknesses? Your answer will assist us in teaming you with a mentor.
3. Describe at least two of the most valuable jobs you have held in terms of personal and professional growth and explain why you chose them.
4. What are your professional goals over the next five years?

Apply Here: form.jotform.com/CASH15/SFLA

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Application Timeline

- Complete the application online and include attachments of the required items no later than December 12, 2025.

Cancellation and Refunds

- Fee is nonrefundable. If a student leaves his/her employment for any reason during the course of the SFLA, a refund will not be issued to the employer. No participant substitutions are accepted after classes have begun.

Program Costs

Fee includes all courses in Sacramento and Ontario, mentoring, meals, all instructional materials, books, full registration to attend 2027 CASH Annual Conference upon completion of the course, and other print or electronic items.

The Academy Institute will kick off in Sacramento, CA in March 2026.

The remaining course sessions will be held in Sacramento and Ontario, California. You will be required to travel to both locations, depending on where the class is being held that month. Monthly sessions will cover the following topics:

- School Facilities Planning
- School Facilities and Financing
- Site Acquisition and Management
- Architects and the Educational Design Process
- State and Local Agencies and Effective Partnering
- Public School Construction
- Program Management and Accountability
- Maintenance and Operations/Commissioning a New School

Please be prepared to upload the following documents when you complete this online application at form.jotform.com/CASH15/SFLA.

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and upload as a PDF or Word doc.

1. Why do you think you would make an excellent candidate for the School Facilities Leadership Academy?
2. Referencing the required qualifications, what are your particular strengths and weaknesses? Your answer will assist us in teaming you with a mentor.
3. Describe at least two of the most valuable jobs you have held in terms of personal and professional growth, and explain why you chose them.
4. What are your professional goals over the next five years?

You will be asked to upload your current one-page resume or curriculum vitae, which can be a PDF or Word doc.

Selection Notification

- Participants will be notified by February 2026.

Travel and Lodging

Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses. There will be a discounted group room block available to the cohort at the host hotels. These expenses are NOT included in registration fees.

Registration Fees

Members - \$11,124

Non-Members - \$12,264

SESSION 1: March 2026 – Sacramento

SESSION 2: April 2026 – Sacramento

SESSION 3: May 2026 – Ontario

SESSION 4: June 2026 – Sacramento

SESSION 5: August 2026 – Sacramento

SESSION 6: October 2026 – Ontario

SESSION 7: November 2026 – Ontario

SESSION 8: December 2026 – Sacramento

SESSION 9: January 2027– Sacramento

GRADUATION: CASH Annual Conference on School Facilities / February 2027

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Additional Information

March Institute begins at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and adjourns at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Subsequent sessions begin at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and adjourn at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The graduation ceremony will be held in February 2027 during the CASH 48th Annual Conference. A full registration to the 2027 CASH Annual Conference is included in SFLA registration fees, and may be used by the participant upon completion of the course.

Students are required to attend all classes.

Note: The Academy does not meet in person in July and September. Online study courses and virtual instruction may be given during this time.

Topics, times and dates are subject to change.

Purpose

California's investment in public school facilities represents an acknowledgment of the key role buildings play in education, as well as an enormous ongoing challenge in management and maintenance. Since the inception of the School Facility Program in 1998, State and local communities have spent billions on new construction, modernization, and deferred maintenance of school facilities. To fulfill the trust of California's taxpayers and to meet the expectations of the state's parents, teachers, and students, the CASH School Facilities Leadership Academy gives tomorrow's school facilities leaders the opportunity to learn from today's experts. The scope of what needs to be learned ranges from project bidding and construction management, to facility maintenance and repair, to school board and public relations. The stakes involved in school facility administration are enormous. Graduates of the CASH School Facilities Leadership Academy will be prepared to deliver exceptional services in school facilities leadership management.

About CASH

The Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) was founded in 1978 to advocate for K-12 facilities funding and improve school facilities in California. CASH began as a coalition of existing statewide organizations and a few dozen school districts. Over the years, CASH evolved into a single organization that has grown to more than one thousand public and private sector members making it the largest statewide premier organization focused exclusively on school facilities issues. The number one priority of CASH is to ensure state funding exists to help build new and modernize existing K-12 public school facilities. To that end, CASH has sponsored and supported over \$61 billion in statewide school bonds since its inception. CASH provides education to its members through monthly membership meetings, web-shops, and annual conference in late February/March, and a fall conference in mid-October in Southern California. CASH also provides leadership training through the CASH Maintenance and Operations Leadership Academy (CMOLA) and the CASH School Facilities Leadership Academy (CSFLA).

About FCMAT

The mission of the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) is to help California's local educational agencies fulfill their financial and management responsibilities by providing fiscal advice, management assistance, training and other related school business services. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools office exists as the administrative and fiscal agent for FCMAT which currently operates within the context of several areas of the California Education Code, primarily those sections having to do with AB 1200 and AB 2756 oversight (EC 42127.1-.8, EC 41326, EC 41327). FCMAT reports to a board of directors comprised of one county superintendent and one district superintendent from each of the state's 11 service regions. A representative of the California Department of Education is also on the board. Assembly Bill 1200 (AB1200) created FCMAT in 1991. The team can assist county offices of education in understanding their fiscal monitoring duties as required by AB 1200, sometimes suggesting specific methods of carrying out the oversight responsibilities. FCMAT also provides management studies for school districts, county offices of education, charter schools and community colleges that request them. FCMAT coordinates statewide professional development efforts for school business officials.

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