

A group of diverse elementary school children, approximately 8-10 years old, are standing together outdoors in front of a school building. They are all smiling and appear to be friends. The children are dressed in casual clothing, including t-shirts, shorts, and a dress. Some are wearing backpacks. The background shows the exterior of a school with windows and a brick wall.

Equitable Access to School Facilities Act

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The Problem

- Charter schools serve 3.7 million students, two-thirds of whom are Black, Latino, or from low-income backgrounds.
- Access to appropriate and affordable school buildings is a major barrier to growth.
- Charter schools also often lack access to tax-exempt financing and land-use parity with district schools.
- Charter schools are left to operate in sub-par facilities and divert per-pupil dollars from classrooms.





- **State Facilities Incentive Grant (SFIG)** added to CSP in 2002 to incentivize per pupil facilities funding
- **2009-2023:** California and Indiana
- **2024:** Cap lifted, California & Colorado receive simultaneously
- **2025:** Indiana, Texas, Ohio (record \$126M investment)



The Solution

S.1723 - Equitable Access to School Facilities Act

119th Congress (2025-2026) | [Get alerts](#)

BILL

Hide Overview

Sponsor: [Sen. Cassidy, Bill \[R-LA\]](#) (Introduced 05/13/2025)

Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Latest Action: Senate - 05/13/2025 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:

The EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

- **Senate** - S.1723 - Led by Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Michael Bennet (D-CO)
- **House** – soon to be introduced
- This bill will expand the types of aid programs that qualify for support under the State Facilities Incentive Grant and make improvements to other programs that support charter school access to facilities.



What could SFIG support under this bill?

- Expand SFIG beyond just *per pupil* facilities funding
- Support innovative solutions to fund charter school facilities, such as:
 - direct grants to schools
 - revolving loan funds
 - reserve accounts
 - alternative ownership models
 - local education property trusts
 - other innovative solutions





Other Key Changes

- Expands eligibility to governors, state charter school boards, SEAs, and charter support associations (CSAs)
- Prioritizes states with good policies in place, such as ability to share in bonds or mill levies, fair access to public property, first right of refusal, and tax-exempt bond financing (*still negotiating*)
- Eliminates the “federal interest” provision, allowing schools to retain full control of properties
- Simplifies ladder match to average of 60% federal share over life of grant



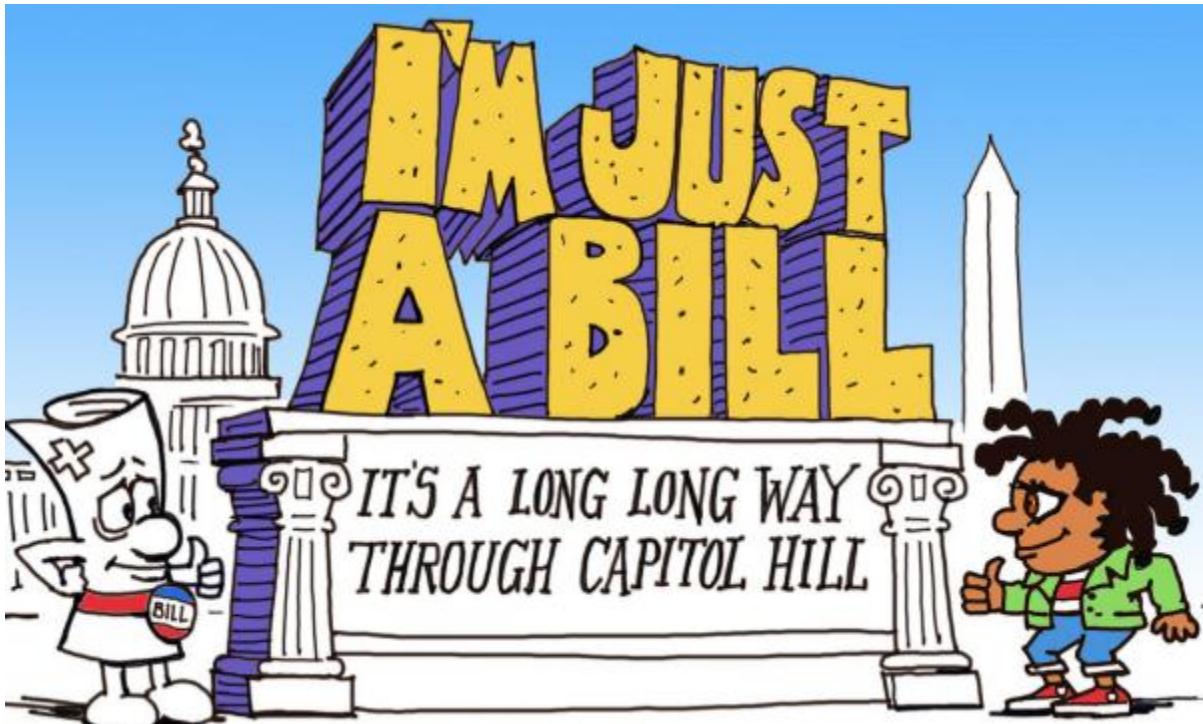


Other, Other Key Changes

- Limit reporting requirements to 10 years for CSP Credit Enhancement grantees who are currently required to report into perpetuity, long beyond the usefulness of this information
- Funds technical assistance for grantees to help improve facilities access in their states
- Allows greater flexibility in the use of CSP State Entity funds to address facilities needs



The Process



- Currently introduced in the Senate and will soon be introduced in the House
Anticipate bill will be marked up in both House and Senate
- Planning for eventual floor vote or other vehicle
- Maintaining bi-partisan support in a partisan moment



What this Means for Schools

- Many more states will be eligible for these resources
- Creates financial incentive for states to implement new programs or “enhance” existing programs
- Consider connecting with other stakeholders in your state to understand future opportunities or how you can get involved





What this Means for Advocates

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- New federal dollars to support facilities programs are on the horizon
- Facilities professionals and charter advocates should consider what programs already exist in their states that could be enhanced with federal dollars OR what are the best opportunities for new programs
- Eligible applicants can partner with other organizations to meet the state match – who are the potential funders in your state?



How can you help?

- Share your stories
- Leverage your relationships
- Contact your Representative and Senators and ask them to support



Have a
facilities
story? Share
it with us!

Charter School Facilities Stories

