
BULLETIN: EDC 17672 GREEN SCHOOLYARDS, PATH OF TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Division of the State Architect (DSA) documents referenced within this publication are available on the [DSA Forms](#) or [DSA Publications](#) webpages.

DISCIPLINE

Access Compliance

PURPOSE

DSA provides this bulletin for reference by K-12 schools, as an aid in complying with new state law requirements.

BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 1091 (Menjivar), signed by Governor Newsom on September 29th, 2024 and effective January 1, 2025, adds section 17672 to the Education Code. The bill limits the cost of complying with the requirement to provide path of travel improvements to 20 percent on a qualifying green schoolyard project on a K-12 school district, county office of education, or charter school project that is approved by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) on or before December 31, 2030. Projects intending to utilize the SB 1091 as a basis to limit path of travel improvements must be designed to improve community ecological health and climate resilience, or pupil well-being, learning, or pupil play, and incorporate nature.

A qualifying project shall meet the applicable accessibility requirements the California Building Standards Code, and at a minimum is described as one of the following:

- A project to remove impervious pavement such as asphalt or concrete and to replace those surfaces with healthy soil, trees, native or climate-adapted plantings, vegetable gardens, or permeable surfaces such as mulch, engineered wood fiber, wood decking, decomposed granite, or pavers. Natural material provided on a required accessible route must regularly be maintained as accessible by the district.
- A project to plant trees or create schoolyard forests in places that pupils can access during the school day, designed to shade and protect pupils from extreme heat and rising temperatures.
- A project to regenerate and support local ecological systems by planning biodiverse tree and plan species intended to decrease air and water pollution, nurture birds, and other beneficial wildlife, and improve local watersheds.
- A project to support outdoor education on school grounds, including native gardens, orchards, vegetable gardens, outdoor classrooms, and other nature-based outdoor learning spaces.
- A multi-benefit child-friendly stormwater project on a school ground serving pupils in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, designed to manage runoff from the school building. These projects may include permeable surfaces, rainwater harvesting, and vegetated swales.

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- A project to protect and enhance existing natural features such as heritage trees, stream corridors, and other natural areas, and make them accessible to pupils during the school day by removing fences or adding pathways, decks, stairs, ramps, interpretive signage, and other features needed to improve physical and visual access to nature for learning and play.

A qualifying project shall not be:

- A project that does not include any live vegetation.
- A project that includes artificial turf.
- A project that includes rubber surfaces, including rubber tires, plastic, and other similar materials that get excessively hot or materials that contain chemicals that are toxic to pupils and the environment. Rubber surfaces may be provided under playground apparatus areas to provide accessibility for pupils with disabilities.
- A project that uses trees and other vegetation that are not climate adapted or that are invasive.
- A project that includes sports fields or sports courts. Running tracks are considered sports fields or courts.
- A project that includes the construction of a new building or the modernization of an existing building. A shade structure may be included in the project; however, sheds and greenhouses are considered buildings and may not be included in the project scope.

1. ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROJECT

The work included in the scope of the project must meet the accessibility requirements of Chapter 11B of the CBC. Walking trails within the area of alteration are accessible routes and must comply with the current CBC Chapter 11B, Section 11B-206 and Division 4. Path of travel improvements required by CBC Section 11B-202.4 are in addition to the intended scope of the project and are limited to 20 percent of the adjusted construction cost of the project, as defined in CBC Chapter 2. Path of travel improvements are subject to the prioritized list of Section 11B-202.4, Exception 8. For more information about path of travel improvements refer to Interpretation of Regulation (*IR*) 11B-10: *Scoping and Path of Travel Upgrade Requirements for Facility Alteration, Addition, and Structural Repair Projects*.

2. PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

Projects that are to be reviewed by DSA and that qualify under EDC 17672 shall include the following at the time of registration and submission:

2.1 Provide the following note in the project description on the project cover sheet or similar project information page:

“This project meets the requirements of a green schoolyard project as specified in EDC 17672. Path of travel improvements limited to 20 percent of the adjusted constructed cost are applicable to the project.”

2.2 Architect/Structural Engineer in responsible charge shall complete the form *DSA 450: EDC 17672 Green Schoolyards Compliance Declaration*. A sample of the form DSA 450 is located in Appendix A below. The form shall be signed by the architect/structural engineer in general responsible charge and the authorized district representative (facility director or similar position).

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2.3 DSA will ensure form DSA 450 has been completed, signed, and no new buildings, additions, modernizations (alterations) of existing buildings, and other disqualifying items are included in the scope.

2.4 Refer to Procedure (PR) 15-01: *Required Information for Path of Travel Upgrades on Construction Documents*, for additional information.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- IR A-9: Site Improvement for School Buildings Projects.
- IR 11B-10: Scoping and Path of Travel Upgrade Requirements for Facility Alterations, Addition and Structural Repair Projects.
- IR A-22: Construction Projects and Items Exempt from DSA Review.
- PR 15-01: Required Information for Path of Travel Upgrades on Construction.

REFERENCES:

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24

Part 1: California Administrative Code (CAC), Sections 4-301, 4-435, 5-101, 5-102

Part 2: California Building Code (CBC), Sections 202.4 exception 8