

(OSB) SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Administrative Building Fund	\$843,450
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ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING FUND (026)

CAP-733	Dormitory Wardrobe Replacement (Franklin)	Renovation/ Replacement	\$91,450
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The school describes this project as a continuation of the ongoing wardrobe-replacement project, which began under the same line item number in the previous capital bill (H.B. 748, 121st G.A.) for the 1997-98 biennium. Although this project's appropriation level is the same as that appropriated in H.B. 748 for the ongoing project, it is, in fact, an additional \$91,450.

This project would complete the renovation process in the remaining cottages. The wardrobes to be replaced are the original wardrobes that were built into the cottages in 1953. The equipment has outlived its warranty and is becoming difficult to repair. The project would provide modern up-to-date room fixtures. Without the project, the students would be using substandard equipment in their living environments.

CAP-757	Bathroom Renovation With Handicapped Accessibility (Franklin)	Renovation/ Replacement	\$185,800
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The school describes this project as a continuation of the ongoing bathroom renovation project, which began under the same line item number in the previous capital bill (H.B. 748, 121st G.A.) for the 1997-98 biennium. The ongoing project's appropriation level was \$325,125 in H.B. 748; the contracts for that project are under negotiation and will be let before June 1999.

For this project an additional \$185,800 is indicated. This project would continue the bathroom renovation process and is scheduled to be completed by a third project in the 2001-02 biennium. The total capital cost for the three-biennium renovation effort is estimated to be \$650,250.

The project would continue the school's efforts to improve disabled students' access to facilities in the student cottages and in the student health service area. All the bathrooms are located in buildings constructed in 1950. The renovations are the key to achieving compliance with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

CAP-778	Install Air Conditioning In Dining Rooms (Franklin)	New Construction & Renovation	\$75,000
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This project would provide the school with air-conditioning in the student dining room areas in the school building area. These areas currently have a very poor air-exchange design that makes the rooms uncomfortable and unpleasant when the students gather to eat. The location of the dining room makes it difficult to arrange any type of cross-ventilation. Without the project, the students would continue to eat in a poorly ventilated area.

CAP-779	Upgrade Doorways For Handicapped Accessibility (Franklin)	Renovation/ Replacement	\$87,000
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This project constitutes the last phase of the capital improvement plan to upgrade the doorways for handicapped accessibility. The school is working to comply with ADA standards by making all areas of the school accessible to handicapped students. Without the project, the school would not be fully meeting the needs of the disabled students. To date, some upgrading of the doorways has been accomplished using funds from the operating budget's appropriation for maintenance (ALI 226-200).

CAP-780	Residential Renovations (Franklin)	New Construction & Renovation	\$344,900
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The project would constitute the third and last phase of the renovations to the school's eight residential cottages. It would include the installation of central air handling equipment, ductwork, electrical upgrading and soffits to conceal the ductwork in the living areas of the cottages. The first two renovation phases brought the bathroom toilets and showers up to ADA standards; the doorways are included in a separate line item, CAP-779.

The rooms of the student cottages were built in 1953. Given their design, it is difficult to make the living areas pleasant places to live, especially in the fall and spring. The existing air flow and ventilation systems in the cottages do not provide an even flow of cool or warm air throughout the living areas. Then, when the windows are opened to cool the sleeping areas, dust and pollen are allowed into the rooms. The project would obviate the opening of the windows and, thus, would provide a cleaner, healthier environment; it would also help conserve energy by providing climate control in the cottages. It would especially benefit the 60% of the students who suffer from asthma. Further, by air-conditioning the cottages the school would be able to expand its summer programs for both families and professionals.

Capital Appropriations Analysis

As an alternative to the proposed central air handlers, window air conditioners could be installed in all the cottages' rooms at approximately half the cost. However, such window units could present safety hazards to blind students, who could run into them during activities outside the buildings.

CAP-783	Natatorium Improvements (Franklin)	Renovation/ Replacement	\$59,300
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This project would consist of two parts: the purchase and installation of a wheel-chair lift in the natatorium and the replacement of the flooring around the swimming pool.

The wheel-chair lift would enable the physically challenged students to take part in the school's swimming and recreational programs. Thus, it would ensure access to the natatorium to all students. It would also enable the facility to comply with the ADA standards (although the lift is not legally mandated).

The existing flooring around the swimming pool was installed when the natatorium was built in 1979. It is currently extremely worn and torn throughout the pool area; thus, it is difficult to keep clean and safe. It is important that the pool area be free of such hazardous conditions for the safety of the visually impaired students.