

## Installing Photovoltaics on California K-12 Schools

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The agency with construction oversight of K-12 schools in California is the California Division of the State Architect (DSA). DSA requirements include a greater focus on structural and electrical issues, along with accessibility. Solar contractors, experienced in installing residential and commercial systems, have experienced frustration with the unfamiliar DSA process when trying to install photovoltaic (PV) systems at schools. This has led to very few installations of school solar systems, despite a very active solar market in California.

To ease this frustration and to help facilitate more installations, The Rachus Institute has compiled simplified procedural design guidelines and approaches for parties interested in purchasing and installing photovoltaic systems at California schools. Utilizing site examples, this paper will illustrate the DSA process for four different approaches: New Construction, Pre-Check (PC), Exempt and Retrofit systems. Comparative costs for each approach will also be presented.



Free-standing, pole mount grid-tied PV system for school. Retrofit and Pre-Check (pre-certified) design potential, thus reducing the cost of installation.



460 kW grid-tied building integrated PV system on Inderkum High School in Sacramento. This is an example of integrating PV in the design process of a new school.