



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
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News Release

Applicants for “BEST” Bill Assistance Board Due June 6

With the signing of the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Act just days away, the Colorado Department of Education announced today the application process for those interested in sitting on the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board. Applications are due by Friday, June 6, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

The BEST legislation increases the level of financial assistance provided to school districts and charter schools for capital construction projects, particularly in those school districts that can't afford to do so.

The function of the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board is to protect the health and safety of persons using public school facilities and to maximize student achievement by ensuring public school facilities provide a safe and un-crowded environment that is conducive to student learning.

The Colorado State Board of Education has three seats to fill on the board and the three seats must represent different areas of the state and urban, suburban and rural school districts.

The three members must be a school district board member, a public school superintendent or administrator, a school facilities planner or manager. Individuals with recent experience in these positions are welcome to apply.

The board will also ensure the most equitable, efficient and effective use of state revenues to provide financial assistance for capital construction by assessing public school capital construction needs throughout the state. The board will also provide expert recommendations based on objective criteria to the state board regarding the appropriate prioritization and allocation of such financial assistance.

The board has the following duties:

- To establish public school facility construction guidelines;
- To conduct or contract for a financial assistance priority assessment of public school buildings and facilities;
- To review financial assistance applications and provide a prioritized list of projects to receive financial assistance to the state board.
- To provide assistance, through the division within the department, to school districts and charter schools in identifying critical capital construction projects, preparing applications, construction management and implementation of energy efficiency;
- To authorize the state treasurer to enter into lease-purchase agreements on behalf of the state;
- To enter into sub-lease agreements with applicants on behalf of the state;
- To set rules and processes as necessary.

In addition to the state board's appointments, the governor will appoint three members: an architect whose professional practice includes the design and rehabilitation of public school facilities, an engineer whose professional practice includes public school facilities engineering and a construction manager of public school facilities construction projects.

The general assembly will also appoint three members: a school facilities planner or manager, a member who has expertise in technology, including for individual student learning and classroom instruction, and a member who has public school finance expertise and knowledge regarding public school trust lands.

Any person meeting the qualifications for the members to be appointed by the state board is invited to submit a personal resume along with a statement of why you are interested in serving on the board. Applications are due by Friday, June 6, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Please send information to Department of Education, Attn: Vody Herrmann, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203. You can also e-mail herrmann_v@cde.state.co.us or fax 303-866-6888.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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