



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 501
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

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News Release

Ted Hughes Appointed Director of Division of Public School Capital Construction Assistance

Following a unanimous recommendation from the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board, Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones has appointed Ted Hughes as director of the new division within the Colorado Department of Education that will manage the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) legislation.

The appointment was made by the commissioner on Aug. 13. At a previous meeting (Aug. 7), the board elected Mary Wickersham (assistant to the Colorado State Treasurer) as chair, Norwood Robb (board member, Denver School of Science and Technology) as vice-chair and Michael Maloney (facilities director of Colorado Springs School District 11) as secretary.

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 meet their own needs. The BEST legislation will provide approximately \$500 million for capital projects including new schools, major renovations, additions and smaller projects. With local matching contributions, the \$500 million may be leveraged to as much as \$900 million or \$1 billion.

"Ted has been with the Colorado Department of Education since 2001 and has provided extraordinary leadership in the capital construction programs administered through the department," said Vody Herrmann, Assistant Commissioner for School Finance. "He is well respected

across the state for his knowledge of the programs and his willingness to assist school districts with their capital needs. He will continue to bring ethical, fair and balanced leadership to the new BEST capital construction program."

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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