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News Release

Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board Adopts Facility Construction Guidelines As Emergency Rules

At a meeting held today, the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board adopted the Facility Construction Guidelines as emergency rules for the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) legislation.

The board also authorized Ted Hughes, Director of Division of Public School Capital Construction Assistance to issue notice of hearing on permanent rules for Facility Guidelines. It's anticipated that the emergency rules will be proposed for use as permanent rules. In addition, the board continued their discussion on the rules for the Full-Day Kindergarten Facility Capital Construction.

The guidelines incorporate a mission statement stating that they "shall be used to assess and prioritize public school capital construction needs throughout the state, review applications for financial assistance, make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding appropriate allocations of awards of financial assistance from the public school capital construction fund, and help ensure that awarded grant moneys will be used to accomplish viable top priority construction projects."

The nine-member board oversees what is known as the "BEST" legislation, approved by the 2008 Colorado State Legislature. BEST stands for Building Excellent Schools Today.

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.

It's anticipated that 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.

The board will next continue work on finalizing the rules for the Full-Day Kindergarten Facility Capital Construction. If time allows, they will also discuss the general timeline and guidelines for the BEST grants.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 17.

For more information on the Capital Construction Assistance Board and to read board minutes, visit

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/CapConstCCAB.htm>

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

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