



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

Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board Approves Facility Construction Guidelines

At a meeting held Wednesday (Sept. 3), the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board approved the proposed Facility Construction Guidelines. The guidelines will be used in a statewide assessment of every public school building in the state, including charter schools.

As required by statute, the guidelines address:

- Health and Safety issues;
- Technology;
- Building site requirements;
- Building performance standards and guidelines for green building and energy efficiency;
- Functionality of existing and planned public school facilities for core educational programs;
- Capacity of existing and planned public school facilities;
- Public school facility accessibility; and
- The historic significance of existing public school facilities and their potential to meet current programming needs by rehabilitating such facilities.

The guidelines are posted at

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/download/pdf/CCACConstructionGuidelines090308.pdf>

The board also authorized Colorado Department of Education staff to send out the request for proposal (RFP) for the assessment of Statewide Facilities Construction needs.

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 to work on the Full-Day Kindergarten Facility Capital Construction and BEST program timelines, said Ted Hughes, Director of the Public School Capital Construction Assistance program.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 10.

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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