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News Release

***Applications for 2009-2010 BEST Grant Cycle Due
Friday, June 5***

Public School Capital Construction Assistance Program Director Ted Hughes today announced that applications for the 2009-2010 grant cycle for the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program are due by 4 p.m. Friday, June 5.

Projects to be funded during the 2009-2010 grant cycle will address health and safety issues, relieve overcrowding or meet technology needs.

The process and the application will be similar to the current grant cycle.

The grant application schedule is as follows:

- The grant application will be available on CDE's Public School Capital Construction Assistance Web site by Monday, March 16. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/CapConstMain.htm>
- Completed grant applications are due no later than 4 p.m., Friday June 5.
- During the summer, CDE staff will read and summarize the grant applications for the Capital Construction Assistance Board and the Colorado State Board of Education.

- The Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board will meet as necessary to review applications and select applications to recommend to the state board for award.
- The recommended projects will be submitted to the State Board its Thursday, August 13 meeting for action and approval.
- Projects approved by the state board will be awarded after Thursday, August 13.

About BEST

The BEST legislation increases the level of financial assistance provided to school districts, charter schools and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) for capital construction projects, particularly in those school districts that can't afford to meet their own needs.

The Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board was established as part of the BEST legislation. The board's function 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 uncrowded environment that is conducive to student learning.

For more information or to read board minutes, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/CapConstmain.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 <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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