



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 103
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

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News Release

Facilities Assessment Reveals \$17.9 Billion In Capital Construction Needs

In a presentation yesterday to the Colorado State Board of Education, Ted Hughes, director of the Division of Public School Capital Construction Assistance presented the Statewide Financial Assistance Priority Assessment findings.

The assessment, which studied the condition and the educational adequacy of all the schools in Colorado, was authorized by the 2008 state legislature. The purpose of the assessment is to assist the Capital Construction Assistance Board (CCAB) in prioritizing grant applications for Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) awards.

The school condition analysis includes all major building systems – roof, plumbing, heating, etc., - as well as tests of air and water quality, adherence to building codes and energy efficiency.

Findings from the report indicate a combined current and forecasted need of \$17.9 billion for Tier 1 buildings for 2010-2018. A Tier 1 facility is a building or part of a building generally used for teaching and learning purposes.

The study assessed approximately 8,419 public school facilities in Colorado and considered the following factors:

- The condition of the facility.
- Air and water quality.
- Public school facility space requirements.
- Ability to accommodate educational technology.

- Site requirements for the facility.
- Public school facility demographics, including a five-year projection concerning anticipated substantial changes in the pupil count of individual public school facilities.

CCAB selected Parsons Commercial Technology Group, a national company that specializes in school facility assessment, design and construction management to perform the study.

Teams of assessors visited every district in the state. An advance team went to district administration offices to gather system-wide information, school plans and other data. A condition assessment team toured all the district schools, typically with a school facility worker who had knowledge of the building and access to the roof, boiler, plumbing, etc. An educational suitability team surveyed all the district schools, typically with the principal or designee, who had knowledge of the program being offered in the school.

Parsons also developed a database, called SchoolHouse, to provide a foundation for continued assessment and evaluation that will change as the guidelines, facility programmatic requirements and construction best practices evolve. Information at the district and school level will also eventually be loaded into SchoolView, the Colorado Department of Education's online portal for ready access to school and district performance.

To read the Statewide Facility Assessment State Report visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/CapConstAssessment.htm>

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 function of the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board is to protect the health and safety of people 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.

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

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