



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 207
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

May 27, 2010

News Release

Public Capital Construction Assistance Board Passes Resolution Cautioning Districts NOT To Pursue BEST Grants to Replace Capital Reserve Expenses

The Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board passed a resolution this week cautioning districts about neglecting to annually set aside resources in their Capital Reserve Funds, stating, "Districts must not rely totally on state BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) Grants to take care of their facilities."

The resolution adds that the assistance board will not look favorably on grant requests by districts that have not allocated and spent funds for their own capital renewal responsibilities.

Prior to 2009-2010 school districts were required to allocate funds to a Capital Reserve Fund. That law shifted in 2009-2010 as district budgets tightened and allocating funds to the Capital Reserve Fund became voluntary.

"Maintaining a Capital Reserve Fund ensures that districts have the resources to repair air conditioners, roofing and systems that maintain the health and safety of students, faculty and staff," said Ted Hughes, director of the division of public school capital construction at CDE. "We don't want districts to be in a situation where a safe learning environment is compromised because the district is waiting for a BEST Grant that may not come."

The BEST Grant cycle is entering its third year. The application deadline closed in April. CDE staff has been reviewing the applications

and will provide a summary book in mid-June to the Capital Construction Assistance Board, which will review the applications and make recommendations to the Colorado State Board of Education in August.

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 persons 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 on the Capital Construction Assistance Board and 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>.

Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/codepted>

#