**To:** Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Business Managers, and Facility Managers

**From:** Andy Stine

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**Subject:** Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant application opens January 2, 2020

The FY2020-21 cycle for BEST grants will **open on January 2, 2020.** Signed and completed applications are **due no later than 4 p.m. on February 24, 2020** at 1580 Logan Street, Suite 310, Denver, CO 80203.

BEST is a competitive grant program committed to serving students and improving Colorado’s neediest schools. BEST is available to school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind.

By statute, applications are prioritized and awarded by severity of need, as follows:

1. Projects addressing health, safety, security issues & technology
2. Projects to relieve current overcrowding
3. CTE projects, and
4. All other capital needs.

The schedule is as follows:

* January 2, 2020 – February 24, 2020 the application can be accessed : <http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/grantapplicationprocess>
* The Capital Construction Assistance Board will meet May 13-15, 2020 to review and select grant applications to recommend to the State Board of Education
* The State Board of Education meets in June 2020 to approve the recommended list of BEST grants.

Resources:

* Contact information for your specific Regional Program Manager can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/contact>
* BEST grant homepage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/best>
* FY20-21 grant cycle timeline: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/best-timeline>
* Capital Construction homepage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction>

We strongly encourage anyone considering applying for a BEST grant to contact your Regional Program Manager and to participate in the live webinar which walks through the grant application. This will also give prospective applicants the opportunity to ask general questions. The webinar will be recorded for future viewing.

To access the webinar, please use link below:

* January 7, 2020 1:00pm - <https://enetlearning.adobeconnect.com/bestgrant2020/>

We also offer trainings and informational presentations at many conferences and business meetings around the state. If you have any suggestions for outreach or would like to meet in person, please feel free to contact us.