

Capital Construction Unit

Fact Sheet

OVERVIEW

The Colorado Department of Education’s Capital Construction Unit manages programs and resources for public school construction funding and technical assistance.

- **Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grants** are available to all public school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, BOCES and the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. The primary focus of BEST is to resolve health, safety, and security issues in Colorado public schools.
- **Charter School Capital Construction** funds are distributed to qualified charter schools with capital construction needs to promote a safe and healthy learning environment.
- **Facility Insight Assessments** focus on establishing an industry-based standard to compare the cost of replacing major systems against replacing an entire facility.
- **Delegate to the Office of the State Architect:** oversight, project management, and support for capital construction and controlled maintenance projects at CDE properties.

By the Numbers

- BEST has awarded grants in nearly every Colorado school district, improving learning environments for over **410,000** students.
- Nearly 75% of total projects funded have gone to rural and small rural districts, which often lack the capacity to raise funds locally.
- CDE estimates **\$20 billion** in capital construction needs in the nearly **2,000** Colorado public schools.

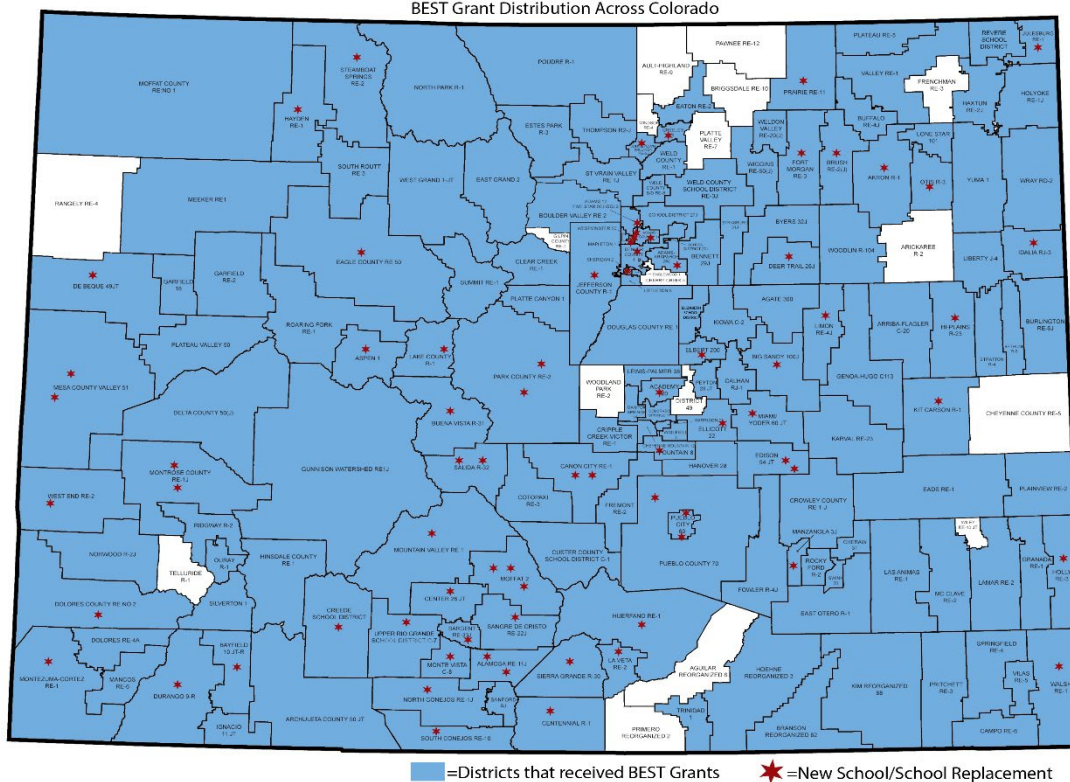
Facility Insight Dashboard:



In FY2025

- **17.2** direct and indirect jobs are created or supported for every **\$1 million** invested in BEST schools (*contractors, architects, materials suppliers, grocery stores, restaurants etc.*).
- BEST generated **\$238 million** dollars in school construction projects, creating or supporting approximately **4,117** jobs.
- **\$42.8 million** distributed to **247** charter schools through Charter School Capital Construction program.

BEST Grant Distribution Across Colorado



BENEFITS OF HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Research shows healthy, high-quality schools promote positive learning environments and improve student outcomes.

BEST Schools benefit from:

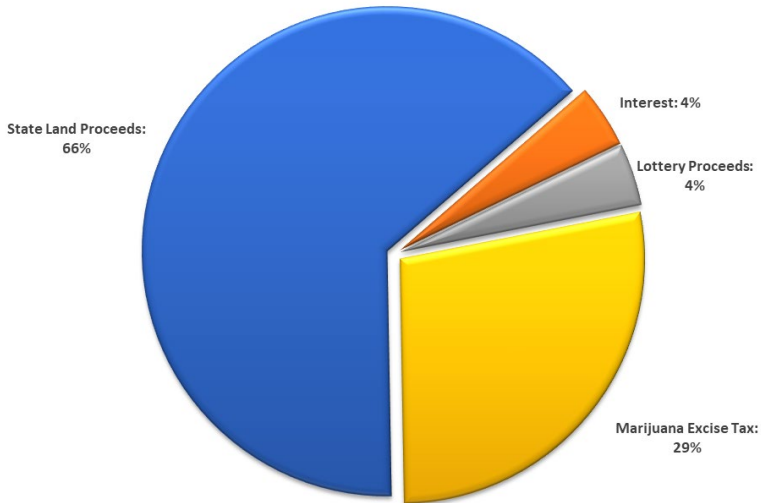
- Community pride
- Reduced vandalism
- Reduced truancy
- Student pride
- Improved teacher retention
- Better test scores



REVENUE SOURCES

Since 2008 the Capital Construction Assistance Fund has received more than **\$2.2 billion** in revenue to fund BEST projects, a portion of the Charter School Capital Construction Program, and other programs. HB25-1320 placed a permanent cap on Assistance Fund revenues at just over \$150 million annually.

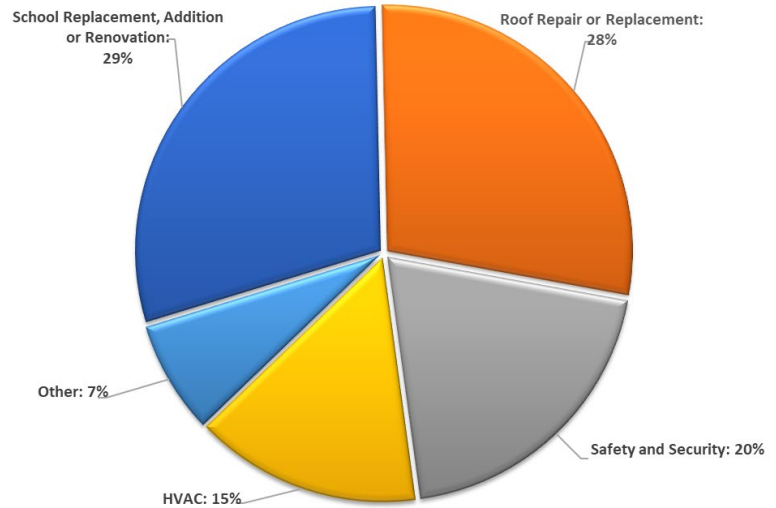
Capital Construction Assistance Fund Revenue Sources
Life of Program



BEST PROJECTS

BEST Grants fund a range of project types, including roof and boiler replacements, safety, and security upgrades, as well as major renovations and school replacements.

BEST Project Types



NEEDS MET

With these revenues, local matching dollars, and financing, BEST has generated over **\$4 billion** in health and safety improvements in almost every Colorado school district. However, with a limited amount of available funds, BEST is only able to fund a percentage of the projects applied for each year.

