

Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST)

The Colorado Department of Education’s Division of Public School Capital Construction Assistance manages a series of programs and resources for capital construction funding and technical assistance. The Division primarily administers a competitive grant program known as Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST). Grants are available to all public school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services and the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.

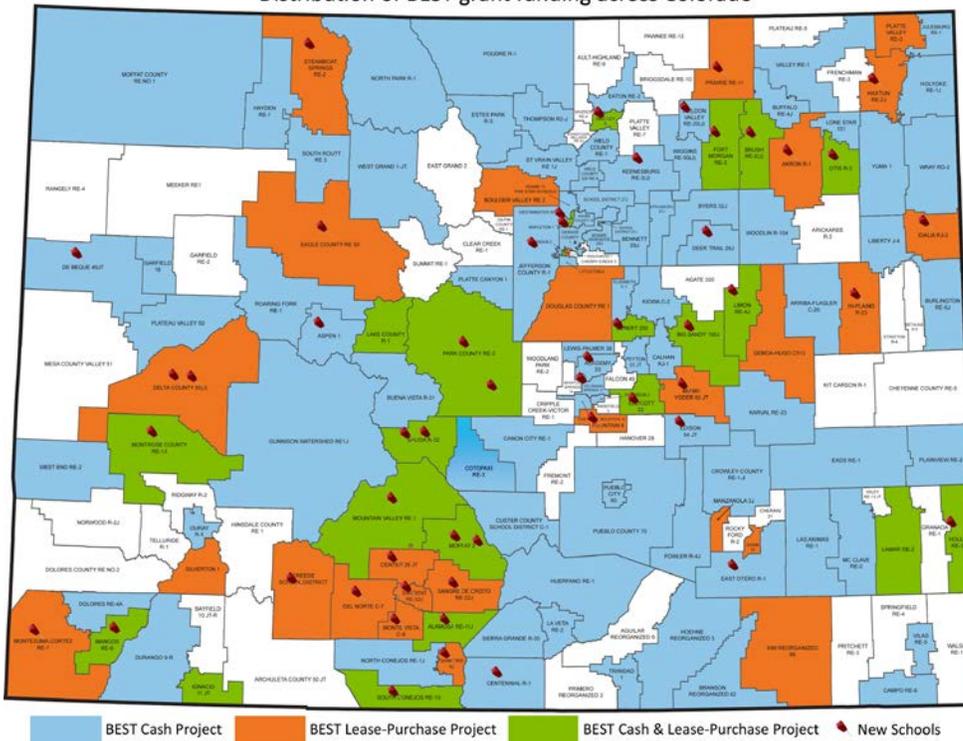
Applications are reviewed on a yearly cycle and recommended for funding by the Capital Construction Assistance Board—a nine-member appointed board who, in conjunction with staff, review grant applications for the current fiscal year.

The Division has eight in-house assessors working to complete condition analyses and adequacy surveys for every facility in the state by 2021, and to reassess every five years to help the state make informed decisions.

BEST Accomplishments

- BEST has funded 319 grant applications in 135 school districts.
- BEST has approved \$1.7 billion in public school capital construction projects from \$3.7 billion in requests.
- BEST has improved health, safety and security in 409 school facilities.
- BEST has positively affected the learning environment for more than 180,030 students.
- BEST has helped create and support roughly 28,824 jobs. (As of Dec. 2017; includes direct, indirect and induced jobs. Analysis provided by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs).
- Through a statewide facility assessment completed in 2009, over 8,000 facilities were inventoried and more than 123 million square feet were assessed revealing \$13.9 billion in capital construction needs.

Distribution of BEST grant funding across Colorado

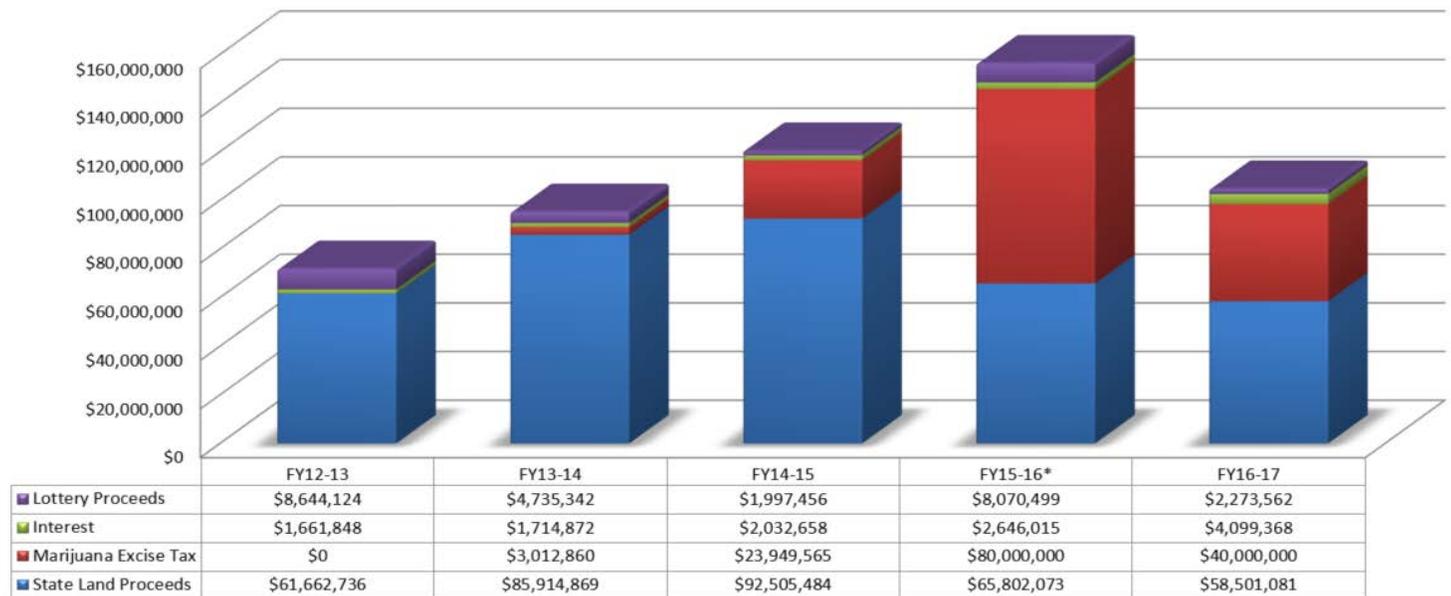




There are three types of grants available from the BEST program:

- **BEST Cash Grants** are typically used to fund smaller projects, such as roofs, boiler replacements and fire alarms.
- **BEST Lease-Purchase Grants** are typically used to fund larger projects, such as new schools, major renovations and additions. These grants are financed and repaid with future assistance fund revenues.
- **BEST Emergency Grants** are used for an unanticipated event that threatens the health or safety of a building’s occupants or renders all or a significant portion of a building unusable for educational purposes.

Revenue Sources



*FY15-16 revenues included a one-time disbursement of \$40M from Proposition BB (Nov. 2015)

Revenues received by BEST by fiscal year and funding sources for the past five years (through June 2017)

To date, BEST has received more than \$807 million in revenue. State Land Proceeds account for more than 70 percent of the funding and marijuana excise tax accounts for 18 percent, with Colorado Lottery spillover funds at 4.5 percent and interest at 2.2 percent.

Where can I learn more?

- Capital Construction Assistance page: www.cde.state.co.us/cca
- Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program page: www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/capconstbest
- Facility Insight program page: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/capconstassessment>
- Capital Construction Assistance Resource page: www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/capconsttechnical
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs