

Office of Capital Construction

Fact Sheet

OVERVIEW

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

- **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.
- **Emergency Grants** are available for unanticipated events that threaten health or safety or render all or a significant portion of a public school facility unusable.
- **Facility Insight** team continuously conducts state-wide facility assessments of all public school educational facilities to support the mission of the division.

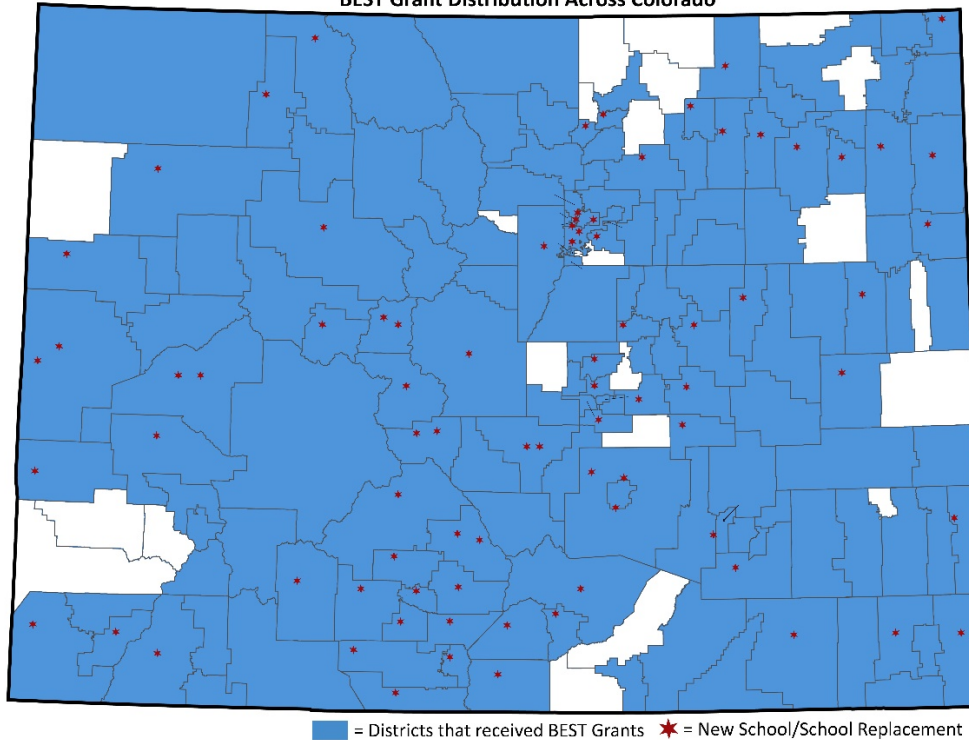
BY THE NUMBERS

- BEST has awarded grants in nearly every Colorado school district, improving learning environments for more than **325,000** students.
- In 2009, over **8,000** school facilities were inventoried and more than **123 million** square feet assessed, revealing **\$13.9 billion** in capital construction needs.
- Revisions of facility assessments began in 2016 with results currently estimating **\$20 billion** in capital construction needs.

In FY2022

- **17.5** direct and indirect jobs (*contractors, architects, materials suppliers, grocery stores, restaurants etc.*) are created or supported for every \$1 million invested in BEST schools.
- BEST generated **\$545 million** dollars in school construction projects, creating or supporting **9,672** jobs.
- **\$38.6 million** distributed to **247** charter schools through Charter School Capital Construction program.

BEST Grant Distribution Across Colorado



BENEFITS OF HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Building conditions influence the health, well-being and performance outcomes of students and teachers. Research shows healthy schools promote positive learning environments and improves student academic performance.

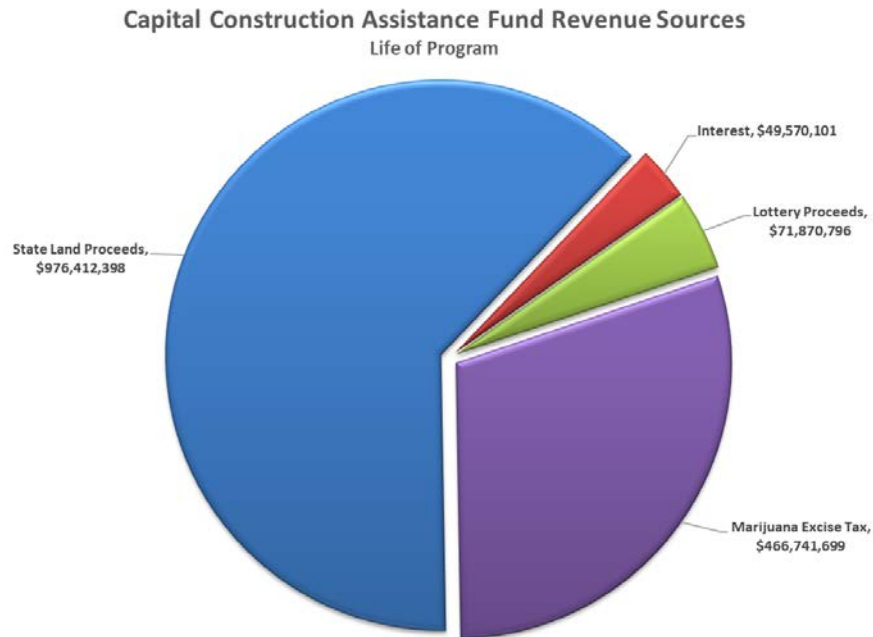
- Healthy schools benefit from 14% lower suspension rates.
- Students in healthy schools earn test scores 5-17% higher than those in substandard buildings.
- Reading speed, comprehension, and mathematics performance decrease at temperatures above 74 degrees.

*Source: California Department of Education



REVENUE SOURCES

Since 2008 the Capital Construction Assistance Fund has received more than **\$1.5 billion** in revenue to fund the BEST program and a portion of the Charter School Capital Construction program. With these revenues, local matching dollars, and financing, BEST has generated more than **\$3.3 billion** in school infrastructure projects.



BEST PROJECTS

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

