

# Office of Capital Construction

## Fact Sheet



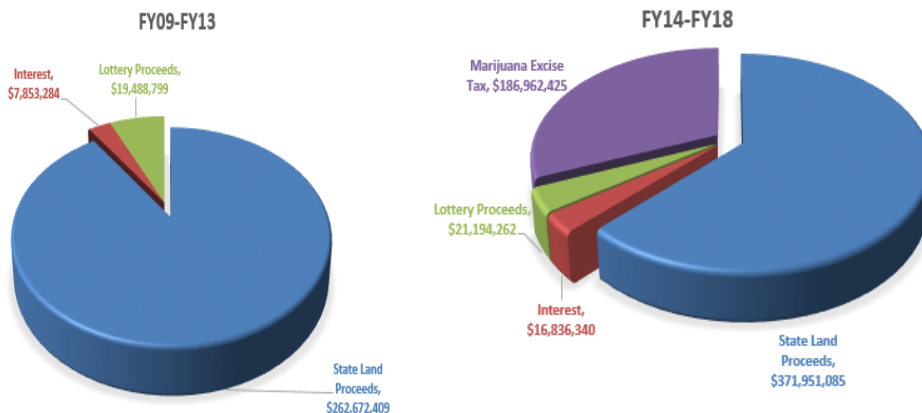
**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

### OVERVIEW

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

### REVENUE SOURCES

Since 2008 the Capital Construction Assistance Fund has received more than \$880 million in revenue. State Land Proceeds account for more than 70 percent of that revenue and marijuana excise tax accounts for 21 percent, with Colorado Lottery spillover funds at nearly five percent and interest at nearly three percent. Since 2014, excise tax has accounted for 31 percent.



### PROGRAMS FUNDED

- **Charter School Capital Construction** funds are distributed to qualified charter schools based on pupil count. \$20 million is distributed from the State Education Fund annually plus 12.5 percent of marijuana excise taxes deposited into the Assistance Fund (nearly \$10 million in fiscal year 2018).
- **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.
- **BEST Grants** average \$100 million in total funded projects against \$240 million in requests every year. BEST Grant types include:
  - **Cash Grants** which are typically used to fund smaller projects, such as roofs, boiler replacements and fire alarms.
  - **Lease-Purchase Grants** which are typically used to fund larger projects, such as new schools, major renovations and additions. These grants are financed through Certificates of Participation (COP) and repaid with Assistance Fund revenues.

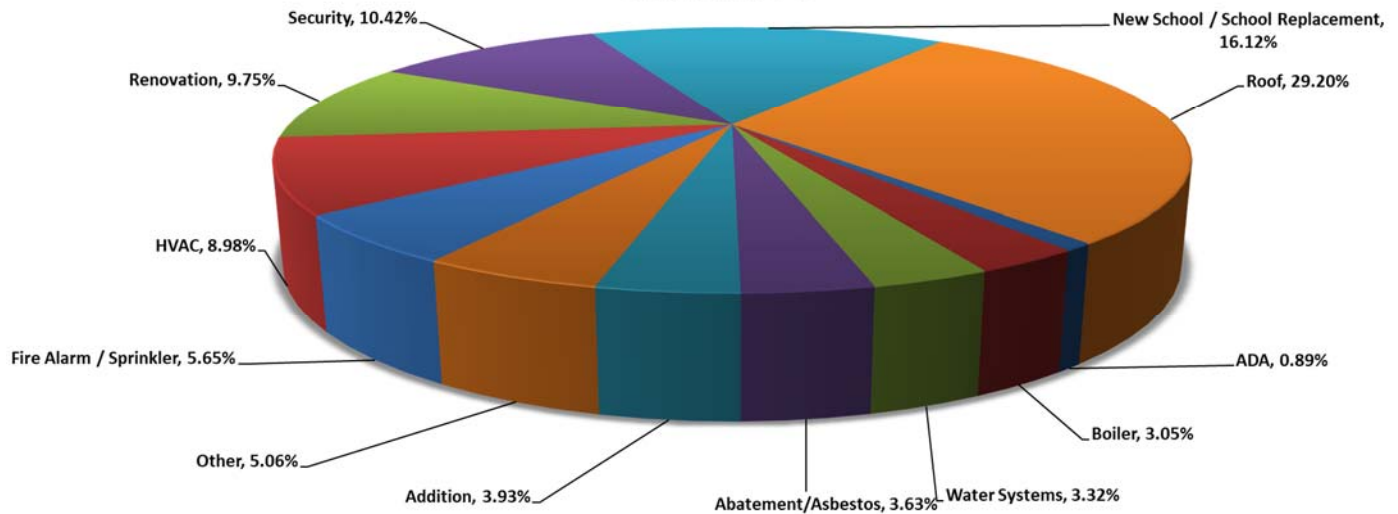
### Accomplishments

- Awarded 354 grants in 141 school districts.
- Utilizing district matches and financing for increased project dollars, BEST has funded \$2.1 billion in projects from \$4.6 billion in requests.
- Improved health, safety and security in 524 schools.
- Improved the learning environment for nearly 225,000 students.
- Created and supported roughly 28,824 jobs as of Dec. 2017 (direct, indirect and induced jobs per the Colorado Department of Local Affairs).
- 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.
- Facility assessment revisions began in 2016 with a goal to complete by 2021. Current data shows a 46 percent increase in capital needs for schools that have not been addressed since the 2009 assessment.

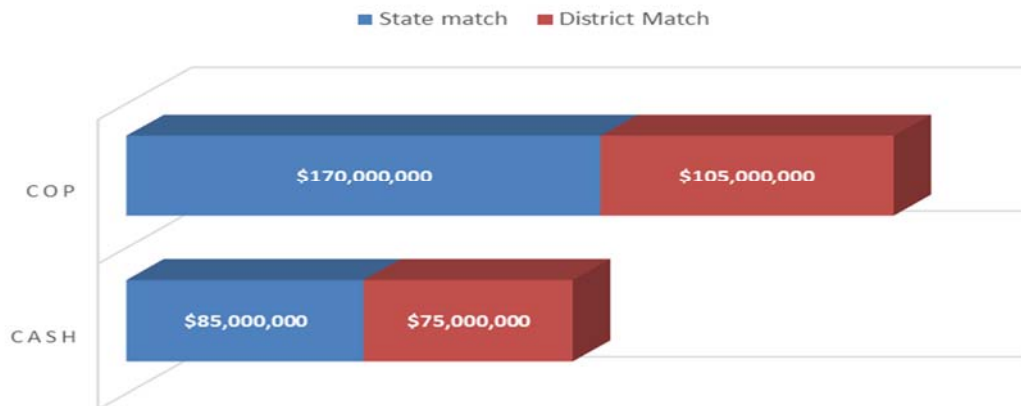
## TYPES OF PROJECTS

BEST grants fund projects that address safety hazards, health concerns and security, as well as projects that are designed to incorporate technology into the educational environment.

**BEST Projects Funded by Project Type**  
through FY2018-19



## **FY18-19 TOTAL PROJECTS FUNDED**



Utilizing district matching funds, cash grants and financing through certificates of participation, BEST funded a total of \$433.6 million in capital construction projects in FY 2019.

To learn more please visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cca](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cca)

#BESTSchoolsCO