



COLORADO
Department of Education

How to Successfully
Use *Charter School Capital
Construction (CSCC)* Funds &
Overview of *Building Excellent Schools Today
(BEST)* Grant Application

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Regional Program Manager

AGENDA

Charter School Capital Construction (CSCC) Program

- Overview, funding, allowable uses, strong practices

Building Excellence Schools Today (BEST) Program

- Eligibility, priority ranking of projects
- Process and annual timeline
- Master Planning (different for charters)
- Match Percentage Activity



- **Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grants**

- **Cash funds** are typically used to fund smaller projects, such as roofs, boiler replacements, and fire alarms.
 - **Lease-Purchase or COP funds** are typically used to fund larger projects, such as new schools, major renovations, and additions. These grants are financed through Certificates of Participation and repaid with Assistance Fund revenues.
- **Emergency Grants:** available for unanticipated events that threaten health or safety or render all or a significant portion of a public school facility unusable for educational purposes.
 - **Other Grants as Assigned:** FY20 Full Day Kindergarten Grants, FY22 Air Quality Improvement Grants
 - **Charter School Capital Construction (CSCC) Program:** used for “construction, demolition, remodeling, maintaining, financing, purchasing, or leasing of land, buildings, or facilities...”
 - Funded with a percentage of marijuana excise tax revenue and State Education Fund dollars
 - **Facility Assessments:** focus on establishing an industry-based standard to compare the cost of replacing significant systems against replacing an entire facility.
 - **Professional Resources:** for facility needs (master planning, design, maintenance, construction, procurement, etc.)

CSCC Program Overview

Established in C.R.S. 22-54-124 for the purpose of promoting safe and healthy learning environments.

ONLY Colorado Charter Schools has access to these annual funds!

ELIGIBILITY

- Publicly funded K-12 charter school – *based on CDE October pupil count*
- District-owned and non-district owned facilities
- Leasing a property listed on the state inventory of real property
- Must have capital construction needs
- Complete required annual reports
- Eligible in the first year of operation
- Online schools are **not eligible**:
 - Technically, per statute, “... certified charter school pupil enrollment’ means the total number of pupils who are not online pupils...”

DISTRIBUTION

- Funding is distributed on a monthly basis to the authorizer (sent on to you) of all eligible schools that submit an Eligibility Questionnaire (October-Google Form)
- Annual grant distribution= October Count x Final per pupil \$
 - Schools in a **district-owned facility** receive one-half the amount per pupil
 - Schools in a **leased or school-owned facility** receive full funding per pupil





FUNDING

Provides an appropriation from the State Education Fund and a percentage of marijuana excise tax (MJET) proceeds to fund capital construction in Charter Schools and Institute Charter Schools

How much money does your school receive each month, and how do you use it for your school?

Funding per FTE

FY20 = \$275; FY21 = \$301; FY22 = \$297; FY23 = \$358; FY24 = \$389

ON OUR WEBSITE-Updated Monthly

Distribution

The distribution schedule below will outline your school's monthly payment and projected annual budget. If you are a new school, you will begin receiving funding in January. The monthly payment will change throughout the fiscal year; please check periodically.

• CSCC Distribution FY24-25 (Excel) (Updated 10/24/24)

- Funding decreased this year to a total of \$42,892,701.96, which brings the per-pupil dollar amount to roughly \$389.62.
- In the January 2025 payment distribution, new charter schools begin receiving funding; this will change payment values to existing charter schools that receive funding.

• Historic Distribution Schedule





What can we use CSCC funds for?

•ALLOWABLE USES

- School Construction
 - Maintaining Facilities (*Guide of eligible expenditures on the [web](#)*)
 - Purchasing Facilities
 - Renovations
 - Financing
 - Leasing Facilities
-
- Funds **CAN NOT** be used for ongoing operational expenses
 - Funds can be carried over year to year to save for future projects
 - Capital Renewal Fund



What is considered a *maintaining facilities* expense?

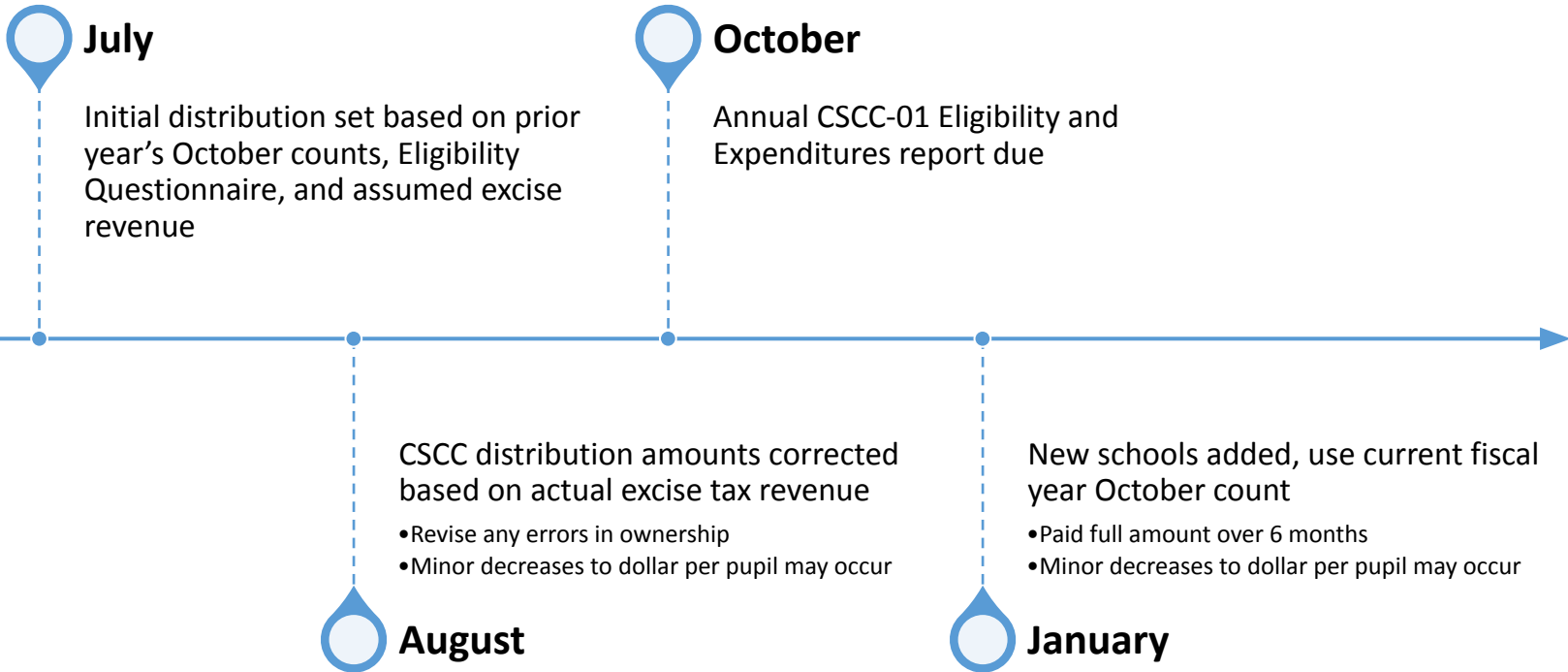
Eligible “maintaining” expenses

- Routine interior/exterior painting
- General building repairs
- Roof patching, broken windows
- HVAC repair or replacement
- Replace door hardware

Ineligible “maintaining” expenses

- Custodial services and supplies
- Pest control services
- Tree trimming, mowing
- Care of trees, shrubbery
- Snow removal
- Other


CSCC Annual Timeline



What do I need to do to receive funds?

Complete annual CSCC-01 Expenditures and Eligibility Report

- Due annually on **October 31st**
- Must be completed to remain in good standing and continue to receive funding without pause
- Online Google Form posted on CDE/Capital Construction website
- Keep an eye out on the Scoop, Schools of Choice, and CSI newsletters for reminders!



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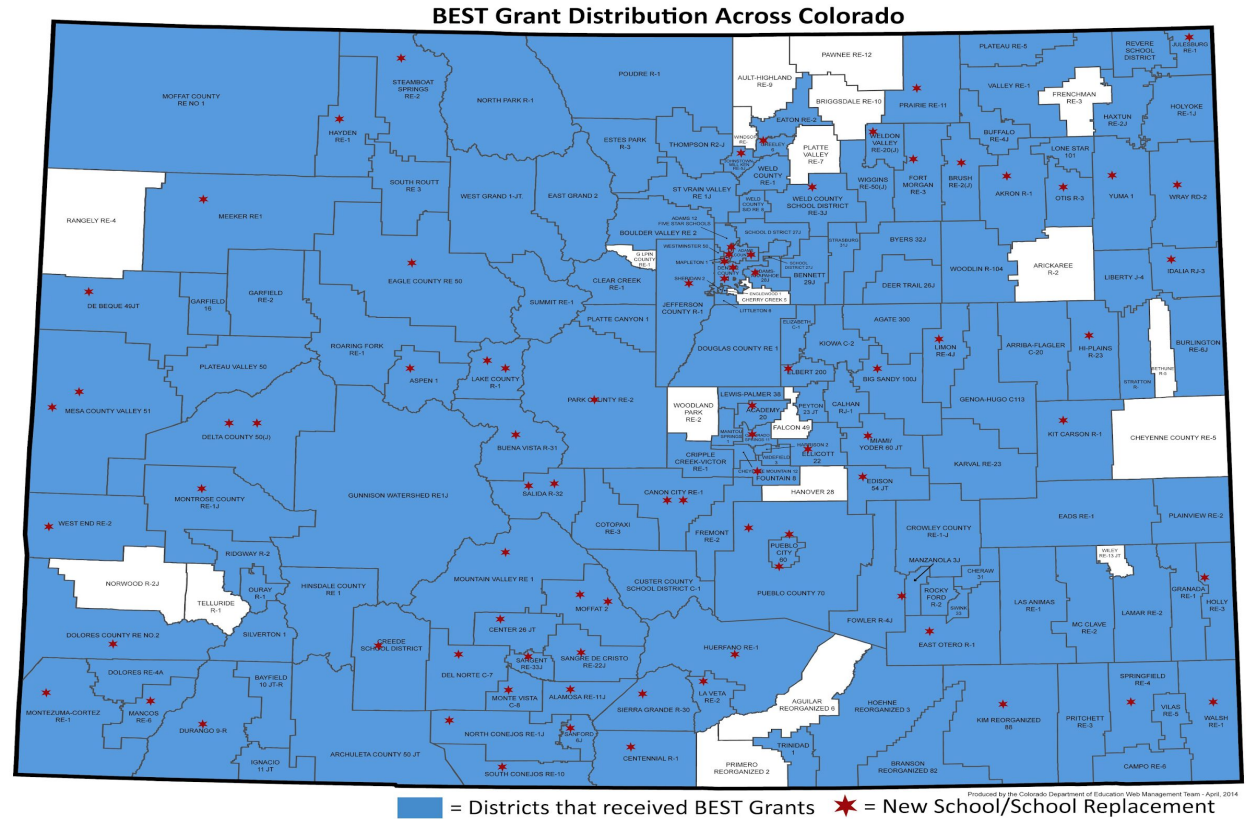
CSCC-01 Expenditures and Eligibility

Expenditures and Project Description and Eligibility - **Due October 31st**
This is required annually from all charter schools who wish to receive Charter School Capital Construction funds. Please read each question carefully and provide accurate responses as your funding levels will be determined by information provided.

Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant Program

History of BEST

BEST has awarded health and safety grants, additions, and replacement schools in nearly every Colorado school district.



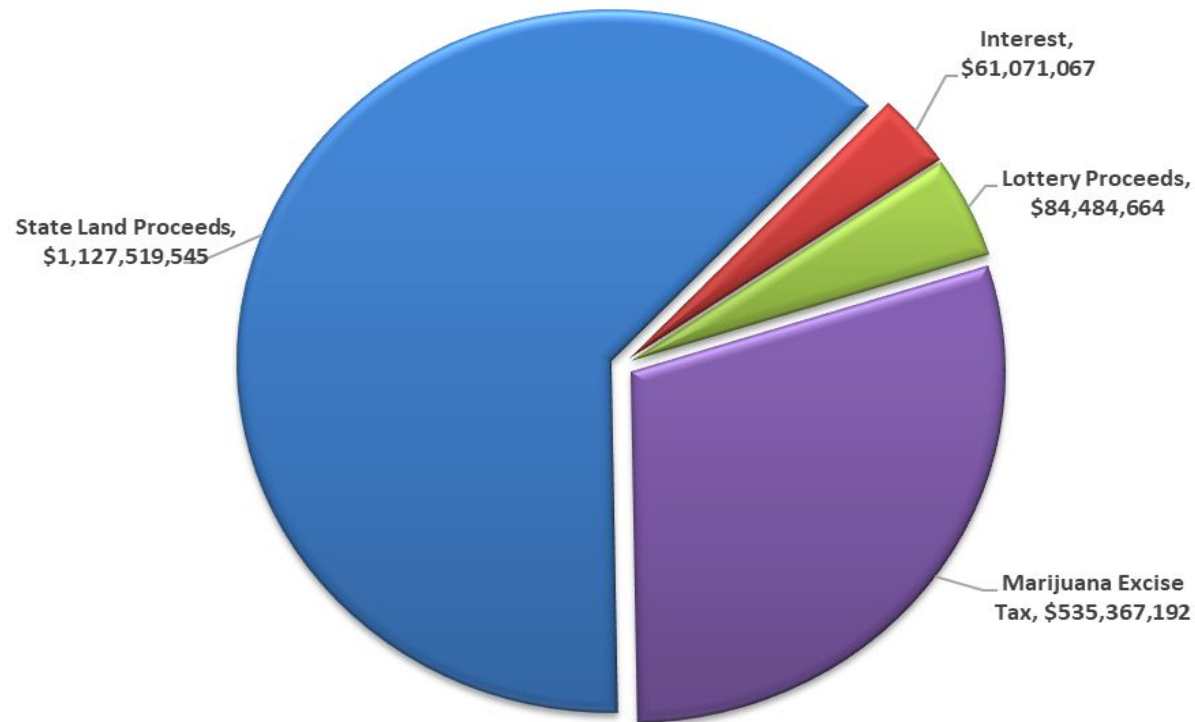
Capital Construction Assistance Fund Revenue Sources Through FY23

\$1.8 Billion in Total Revenue

- 62% State Land Proceeds
- 30% Marijuana Excise Tax
- 5% Colorado Lottery
- 3% Interest

Capital Construction Assistance Fund Revenue Sources

Life of Program



What is Capital Construction?

Per C.R.S 22-43.7-103, “Capital construction” has the same meaning as set forth in section 24-30-1301 (2); except that the term also includes technology, as defined in section 22-43.7-109 (5)(a)(I)(B), and career and technical education capital construction.

Per C.R.S 24-30-1301 (2), “Capital construction” means:

- (a) **Acquisition** of a capital asset or disposition of real property;
- (b) **Construction, demolition, remodeling, or renovation** of real property necessitated by changes in the program, to meet standards required by applicable codes, to correct other conditions hazardous to the health and safety of persons which are not covered by codes, to effect conservation of energy resources, to effect cost savings for staffing, operations, or maintenance of the facility, or to improve appearance;
- (c) **Site improvement or development** of real property;
- (d) **Installation of the fixed or movable equipment** necessary for the operation of new, remodeled, or renovated real property, if the fixed or movable equipment is initially housed in or on the real property upon completion of the new construction, remodeling, or renovation;
- (e) Installation of the fixed or movable equipment necessary for the conduct of programs in or on real property upon completion of the new construction, remodeling, or renovation;
- (f) **Contracting for the services** of architects, engineers, and other consultants to prepare plans, program documents, life-cycle cost studies, energy analyses, and other studies associated with capital construction and to supervise the construction or execution of such capital construction; or
- (g) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2014.)

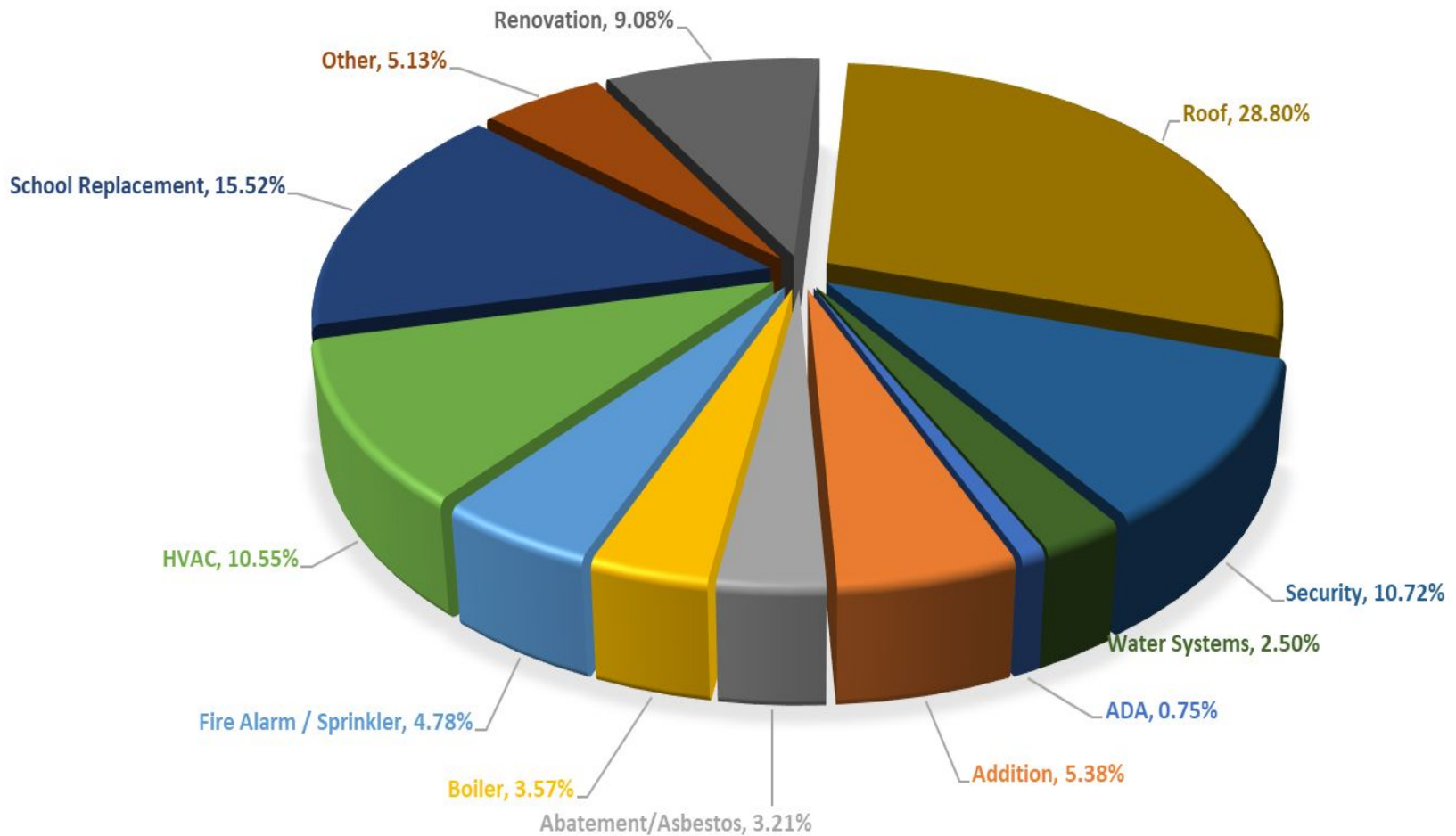
Building Excellent Schools Today – Overview

- Available to all public school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES), and the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind
- Nine member-appointed Capital Construction Assistance Board (CCAB) determines the funding allocation for the annual BEST grants
- Per statute, BEST grants award allocation priorities are based on the following:
 1. **Health, Safety, Security** and Technology
 2. Overcrowding
 3. CTE Programs (HB19-1008)
 4. American Indian Mascots
 5. All other projects
- All applicants are required to provide matching funds based on the district/school determining factors





BEST Projects Funded by Project Type through FY2021-2022



Are you eligible to apply?



ELIGIBILITY

- Operate in a school district facility, OR
- Operate in a non-school district facility with a path toward ownership or control of your facility, AND
- Must have been in existence for at **least three years** prior (*after 4th year of October count*) to the date of submission of the BEST grant application.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for both the school and the building corporation, as applicable
- Reviewed by CDE staff to ensure eligibility requirements are met



How are match percentages determined?



MATCHING FUNDS- Range from 15% to 76%

Start with authorizing district's match- there are three starting points:

- District authorized occupying a district facility: match will equal district match
- District authorized not in a district facility: 75% of authorizing district match
- CSI Authorized School: 50% of the average of all districts, currently equals 25%

Additional factors:

- Attempts (failed or successful) at other funding opportunities
- Enrollment as % of district
- Free and Reduced Lunch %

CDE calculates annually in December if applying for a BEST grant the following cycle

If the minimum CDE match cannot be met, a waiver to reduce the match can be submitted

What would be your match percentage for your school?

Step 1 - Start with your authorizer's match percentage.

District Authorizers-

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:35566748-9767-4ef9-9ea5-1e811f70d911>

CSI- Average of all districts= **50%**

DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL that is occupying a district facility and paying only the direct costs of occupancy	Equals Authorizing District Match
DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL not included in subsection (9)(c)(I)(A)	75% of Authorizing District Match
CSI SCHOOL	50% of the average of all districts (25%)

Find Your Match Continued...

Step 3-

Does your authorizing district have 10% or less bonding capacity remaining?	5% decrease if YES No change if No (or CSI)
Over the last ten years, how many times has the charter school attempted or obtained funding for capital construction projects? This can include, but not limited to, the following: grant funding from a source other than the assistance fund or state aid, financing, bond proceeds, mill levy for capital needs, etc.	2% reduction in match for each occurrence up to 10% reduction

Current match following step 3: _____

Continued: Finding your MATCH

Step 4-

Charter school enrollment as a percent of district enrollment	Adjustment between 0% and -4% based on relative difference
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Enrollment as % of District	
Scale (% of charter students)	Match Adjustment
>15%	0%
15-7.5%	-2%
7.4-0%	-4%

Current match % _____



Last Step:

Free/reduced lunch percentage in relation to the statewide average of charter school free/reduced lunch percentage	Adjustment between -4% and 4% based on relative difference
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Free/Reduced Lunch	
Scale (%)	Match Adjustment
>60%	-4%
60-45%	-2%
45-30%	0%
30-15%	2%
15<=0	4%

Your BEST Grant match: _____

Considering applying for a BEST grant?

PLANNING – start now!

1st- Reach out to your *Regional Program Manager* – Brandon LaChance

- Review or schedule your **CDE Facility Assessment**, if available
- Identify resources necessary
 - Time
 - Personnel
 - Funding – *how much can you afford?*
 - School Finance and Building Committees
 - Meet and plan with your Authorizer for potential support
- Hire Professionals
 - Master Planner (for major projects),
 - Owner's Representative,
 - Mechanical contractors,
 - Roofing Consultants, etc.



Where do I start?

MASTER PLANNING

A master plan is a tool for administration/staff/communities to make educated decisions regarding facilities, whether you have one or multiples.

Master Plans are comprised of two major components:

- **Assessment:** A thorough assessment of a school district, charter school, BOCES, or Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB) facility inventory including but not limited to:
 - An assessment of all facilities
 - Demographic Information
 - Summary of performance of public school
 - Geographic Area
 - Operations Costs
- **Analysis:** Look at results to identify strengths, weakness and deficiencies that can be improved. Should include a plan to address deficiencies over the next 5 years including but not limited to:
 - Options for solutions to address deficiencies (ie. replacement, renovation, new)
 - Ability to implement the options (ie. funding, resources, etc.)
 - Impact of implementing or not



What makes a successful Charter BEST Grant project?

- Appropriate planning is CRITICAL
- Keep in mind the first priority of BEST – health, safety, and security
 - Roof replacement, HVAC upgrades, secure vestibules, and security cameras are usually strong grants!
- Addressing overcrowding and growth is not a number one priority of BEST
- Identify financial means and opportunities
 - Meeting the CDE minimum match
- Engage with your CDE Regional Program Manager and hire professionals to support you along the way!



BEST Timeline-Next Grant Cycle



Important Dates & Deadlines:

- **Now until November 2024**
 - RPM-Outreach, school assessment, draft match %, review of your intended project
 - Planning and Professionals- Create your school team, identify what professional supports you need
 - Collaborate with fellow school leaders who have gone through the process
- **December 15th, 2024** – Notice of Intent to Apply Deadline
 - CDE must collect data from the charter school in order to generate the matching percentage for the school
 - CDE will also schedule a facility assessment, if not complete
- **December 2024** – Updated Match Calculations Available
- **January-February 2025** – Application Open
 - If your charter school submits an application, it must notify its authorizer.
- **May 2025** – CCAB meeting to recommend project applications for award
- **July 2025**– Award and Contract with successful grant recipients

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/CapConstCharterScIs>



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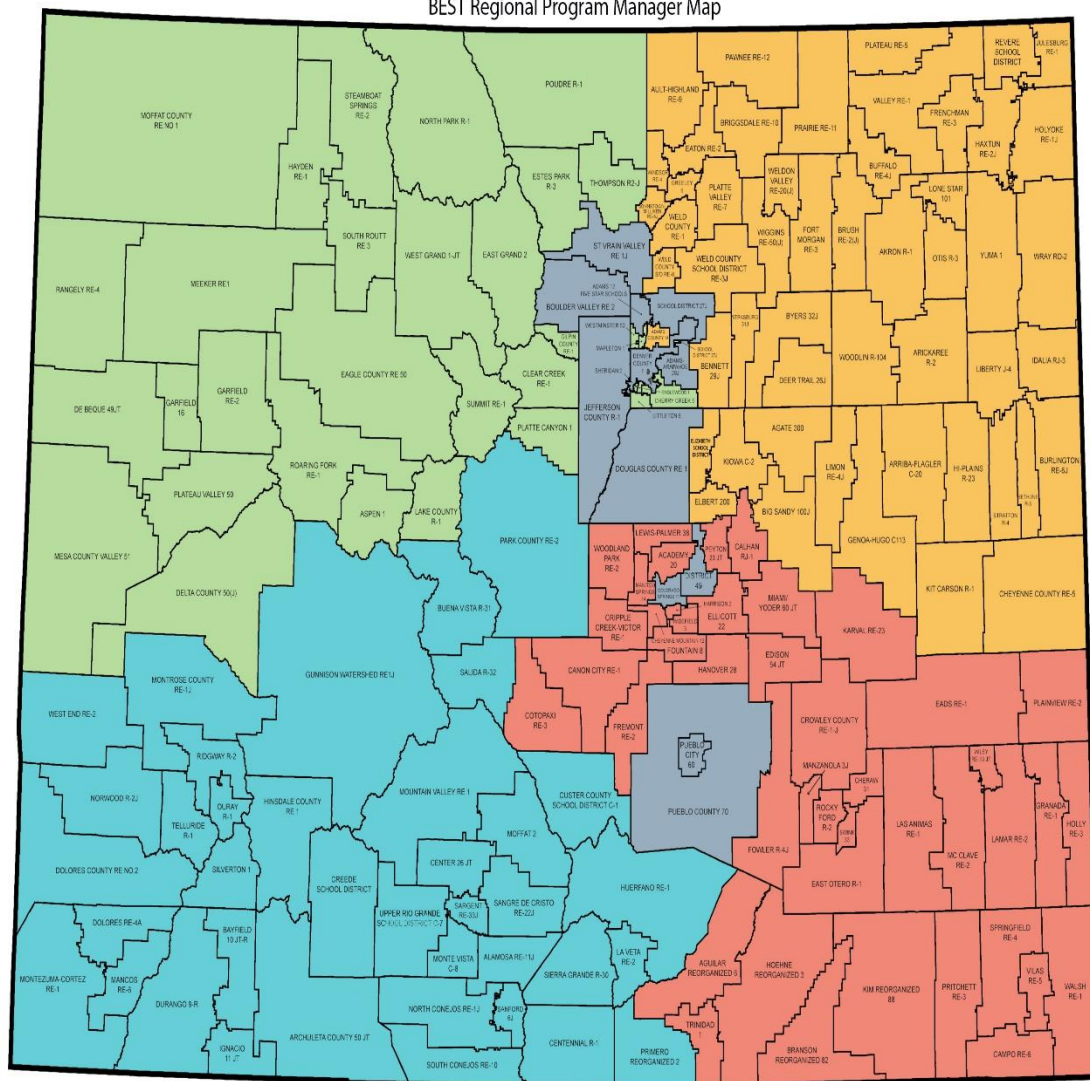
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BEST Regional Program Manager Map



Sean Donahue

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Katie Van Kooten

Jay Hoskinson

Brandon LaChance

Questions?