

Administration of Colorado's Public School Capital Construction Grant Program

School Construction and Renovation Fund:

- **Oversight Board:** The State Board of Education receives and processes applications and determines recipients and amounts. The Capital Development Committee of the General Assembly determines how much funding is available—and therefore how far down the priority list grants might be awarded. They cannot, however, deviate from the prioritized list submitted by the State Board of Education. Although not required by statute or rules, the State Board of Education has created an Advisory Committee that, in practice, along with CDE staff, creates the priority list. This committee, until recently, was chaired by Cal Frazier. Other members include: Ed Steinbrecker (former Assistant Commissioner and Superintendent), Mike Maloney (Director of Facilities for Colorado Springs District 11) other district facility managers, State Senator Moe Keller, State Senator Nancy Spence (former chair of the house education committee), a high school student, a CDE regional representative, a BOCES director among others.
- **Local contribution:** These grants are matching grants. The State Board of Education determines what the matching formula is (i.e. the mix of state and local money) on a case by case basis. The State Board can choose to require the local match come in the form of a voter approved bonding measure. The criteria according to which the State Board determines the state and local mix are laid out in CRS 22-43.7-106:
 - The district's statewide per pupil assessed value rank (and whether it is above or below the statewide average)
 - The district's mill levy and debt capacity
 - The effort of the district to submit bond questions to their voters and to support those measures
 - Other criteria deemed appropriate by the State Board
- **Principle of distribution:** the State board of Education determines which school districts will receive funds by prioritizing each application. The Board also determines how much state capital funding each district will receive. The priority criteria are laid out in CRS 22-43.7-106:
 - Projects in districts that have lower relative wealth based on per pupil assessed value
 - Projects in districts that have reached 90% of their allowable bonded indebtedness
 - Projects that address health or safety needs
 - Projects in districts that have consistently allocated more than the required minimum portion of PPOR to the districts capital reserve
 - Projects designed to incorporate technology in the classroom
 - All other projects

School Capital Construction Expenditure Reserve

- Oversight board: the State Board of Education receives and processes applications and determines recipients and amounts and awards funds.
 - Local contribution: Due to the expressed purpose of covering immediate health and safety needs, there is no statutory local contribution requirement. However, the State Board does in practice require a local contribution (the extent of which is determined by the board) although districts may apply for a waiver.
 - Principle of distribution: Eligible districts are limited to districts unable to meet their needs due to:
 - An act of god
 - Non-payment of property taxes due to legal challenges
 - Unforeseen circumstances affecting property tax collection including, but not limited to, declines in district assessed value.
 - Financial difficulties caused by students moving into (or being assigned into) the district after the official pupil count
 - Financial difficulties caused by a substantial decline in enrollment
- Eligible projects are limited to those that:
- Address immediate health and safety needs
 - Relieve excessive operating costs created by insufficient maintenance
 - Relieve building conditions that detract from an effective learning environment