



Legislative
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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 18-0871	Date:	March 9, 2018
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Becker J.; Esgar	Bill Status:	House Education
	Sen. Baumgardner; Kefalas	Fiscal Analyst:	Kori Donaldson 303-866-4976 Kori.Donaldson@state.co.us

Bill Topic: BEST FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION REQMNTS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure (<i>minimal</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government (<i>minimal</i>)
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill makes a change to the grant application requirements for a program that funds public school construction and renovation. For FY 2018-19 only, it will result in a minimal increase in workload for the Colorado Department of Education. Beginning in FY 2018-19, the bill may result in minimal workload or expenditure increases for school districts.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as recommended by the Capital Development Committee.

Summary of Legislation

This bill adds to the list of requirements for a grant under the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program. Under the bill, an application for financial assistance for FY 2019-20 or later must include a plan for the future use or disposition of any public school facility that will be vacated as a result of a BEST grant award. The application must also include the estimated cost of implementing the plan for future use or disposition of the facility.

Background

The BEST program is administered by the Office of Capital Construction in the Colorado Department of Education (office). Under current law, the office expects grant applicants to master plan for new or renovated buildings requested for funding. According to the office, these plans should already reference the future disposition of vacated buildings. While BEST grants do not pay the cost of master planning, grant awards will pay the cost of demolition or repurposing a facility for school or district use. If a building is not being considered for repurposing into another school or district use, applicants are strongly encouraged by the office to include demolition costs in a grant application.

State Expenditures

There will be a minimal increase in workload for FY 2018-19 only in the Colorado Department of Education to update grant application forms and processes to accommodate the new application requirement.

School Districts

To the extent that a school district engages in additional planning to address the new requirements of the BEST grant application process, the bill may add workload or increase expenditures. If a district plans to contribute matching funds to a project and it includes the cost of demolition or repurposing a facility for district use in a grant application as a result of this bill, school district expenditures may increase. Since grant applicants are already encouraged to master plan and include costs related to demolition or repurposing facilities for district use in grant applications, any workload or expenditure increases are expected to be minimal.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education School Districts