## Summary of Legislation

The bill allows the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board (the board) to provide grants for equipment, new construction, or the retrofitting of public schools for career and technical education under the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program.

The bill requires that the board annually report to the General Assembly the career and technical capital construction grants that were issued or denied during the preceding year.

## Background

The BEST program was established in 2008 to provide state grants for capital construction and the maintenance of public school facilities. BEST is a competitive grant program available to school districts, charter schools, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, and to the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. The program is funded from a combination of State Land Board proceeds, marijuana excise tax, Colorado Lottery spillover funds, and interest accrued in the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund. Matching funds are required from grant recipients. The board prioritizes a list of projects annually and makes recommendations for funding to the State Board of Education.
State Expenditures

The bill does not change the total amount of grant funding provided for capital construction projects in K12 from the BEST program; however, by expanding the eligibility criteria used by the board to determine grant awards, additional applications may be considered for participation in the program.

The bill minimally increases workload within the Colorado Department of Education to revise the BEST capital construction guidelines and application process to include career and technical education programs. This workload does not require additional appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on March 7, 2019, and takes effect August 2, 2019, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education