

# Expanding Public Engagement

## State Board of Education Room Remodel



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

### Improving public engagement and safety

The Colorado State Board of Education is committed to ensuring the public can fully participate in its meetings and engage in its decision-making processes. The current State Board Room, however, presents numerous barriers to effective public engagement.

#### Safety of the public, staff and the board is lacking

The State Board Room lacks appropriate security features typically seen in other meetings spaces for public officials, and it is hard for security officials to protect given the multiple entrances into the space. In addition, the windows facing into the alley are not protected by any bulletproofing measures.

In addition, the electrical system in the State Board Room has serious issues that present significant fire hazards. Outlets routinely spark when in use, and with the lack of technology built into the room, electrical and technical wires must be manually strung in front of the dais, presenting a separate safety concern.

#### Hearing, speaking and participating in meetings is challenging

The State Board Room is not ADA compliant, and is not up to code. It is impossible for individuals using a wheelchair to access the space. The room does not have the proper acoustics nor an updated sound system, which makes it difficult for anyone in the room or listening remotely to effectively hear the proceedings, especially anyone with a hearing impairment.

The space only allows for around 30 members of the public to join the meetings in person, yet it does not have technical capabilities to hold effective hybrid meetings. While the challenges with remote participation have always disproportionately impacted rural communities, it was felt by all during the pandemic. Lastly, as with any space that has not been updated in 30 years, the heating and cooling systems are unpredictable, and oftentimes it is uncomfortably hot or cold.

#### State Board Room must now accommodate a larger board

The Colorado Constitution stipulates that one member will be elected to the State Board of Education for each congressional district. Additionally, the constitution requires an odd number of board members. As a result of the 2020 Census, Colorado will now have eight congressional districts, so the board must expand from seven elected members to nine. The current room does not have the capacity to seat nine board members.

### Background on the State Board of Education

The Colorado State Board of Education is established in Article IX of the State Constitution. The State board is the governing body of the Colorado Department of Education.

The State Board of Education's mission is to provide all of Colorado's children equal access to quality, thorough, uniform, well-rounded educational opportunities in a safe and civil learning environment.

The vision of the board is that all children in Colorado will become educated and productive citizens.

The board is committed to ensuring that its meetings are fully accessible to the public and that systems and process are in place to ensure that the board can hear from members of the public during their meetings.

The Colorado State Board of Education meets in the State Board Room located in the State Office Building, the primary home of the Colorado Department of Education at 201 E. Colfax.



**Capital budget request is the best option to improve public engagement**

The board explored using existing space within the Capitol Complex, including space in the Capitol. Legislative leadership was unable to accommodate this request. Other spaces in the Capitol Complex do charge CDE to rent the space and are often hard to reserve in advance. Because the board sometimes meets outside of the normal schedule, and meetings need to be posted in advance, the board determined that the most cost effective, long-term approach was to update the State Board Room. The board also explored outside private venues, but again determined the cost was not sustainable long-term.

After the proposed renovation, the State Board Room will:

- Expand from 1,600 square feet to 3,000 square feet
- Increase the room capacity from 30 to 87 members of the public
- Meet building electrical and safety codes.
- Meet ADA requirements
- Provide excellent security for the public, staff and board members
- Support effective public engagement through up-to-date technology for hybrid meetings and remote participation
- Serve the public, board and staff the next 20-30 years

***Please support the capital request to remodel the State Board of Education room.***

Working with the Office of the State Architect, the following information provides a breakdown of the \$1,774.654 ask before you.

Item	Cost
Architectural/ Engineering	\$37,955
Code Review/ Inspection	\$20,000
Construction Management	\$30,000
Cost of Renovation	\$1,359,384
Prevailing Wage	\$81,564
Furnishings	\$30,000
Art in Public Places	\$14,410
Relocation Costs	\$40,000
Contingency	\$161,332
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,774,654</b>