



## Franklin School of Innovation Replacement Announcement

There will soon be some exciting changes coming to the Franklin School of Innovation neighborhood and school community.

Pueblo School District 60 was awarded a BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) Grant from the Colorado Department of Education, Capital Construction Division. This grant, which includes matching funds in bond money originally earmarked for repairs at the current facility, will allow for the full replacement of Franklin.

As BEST Grants are extremely competitive, the fact that the District this year received not one but two of these grants in a single year is a testament to the state's belief in our mission and vision.

Information regarding the BEST Grant program can be found on their website:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/best>.

The new building will be located northwest of the existing building and is scheduled to be open for the start of the 2023 school year. The existing building will then be removed to make way for the school's site amenities, which include parking, playgrounds and a play field.

Four classrooms on the west wing of the existing building will be removed in December 2021 to allow for the new building to safely be constructed without impacting the learning environment of the remaining portions of the building. The construction of the new building is scheduled to begin in early spring 2022.

A virtual Town Hall meeting is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on October 20, 2021, during which information and details about the new construction project will be offered. There also will be opportunity for questions from stakeholders taking part. The link to this virtual Town Hall on the district's website is:

<https://vimeo.com/event/1289321>

There will be a ground-breaking ceremony on the site in the spring of 2022. Additional details about this ceremony also will be announced on the school district's website.

The school district's website is: <https://www.pueblod60.org/>.

"As a District, we are elated to be able to bring a new Franklin school to the Belmont community at no additional cost to taxpayers," said District 60 Superintendent Charlotte Macaluso. "This new state-of-the-art school will provide our scholars with opportunities for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning while still retaining the great traditions Franklin is known for.

"The fact that the District received two BEST Grants to continue our mission is affirmation that the great work our educators and staff are doing here is being recognized on the state level."