

Hamden's 3R Initiative

A long-range plan for education in Hamden

What are the reasons the BOE developed the 3R plan?

- ▶ Need to scale facilities to address declining enrollment
- ▶ Need to racially balance elementary schools
- ▶ Need for all four-year-old Hamden residents to have access to quality, affordable preschool experiences
- ▶ Need for Hamden 6th graders to have comparable experiences in world language, science, and other subjects as most other CT students; Need to maintain critical “team structure”
- ▶ Need for long-term financial sustainability
- ▶ Need for Hamden to be attractive to current and potential families

How did the BOE make the decisions reflected in the 3R plan?

- ▶ Listened to community input through multiple public hearings, meetings and online surveys
- ▶ Consulted with demographic and school construction experts
- ▶ Discussed options related to financing with State of CT to minimize town expenditures and maximize state reimbursements
- ▶ Examined research for best-practices related to middle school students and early childhood learning
- ▶ Considered physical and curricular structures and programming that would optimize student learning opportunities as well as provide attractive educational options for families

What is the 3R plan?

- ▶ Close and repurpose Church Street and Shepherd Glen Elementary Schools and Central Office
- ▶ Create a 6th-8th grade middle school
- ▶ Incorporate Wintergreen facility into Hamden school system
- ▶ Maximize state funds to provide needed building improvements
- ▶ Make preschool available for all Hamden 4-year olds
- ▶ Develop intra-district magnet programs to provide choice options for families and assist with diversifying schools

Choice Options for Families - Intra-district Magnet Schools

- ▶ Helen Street: Career Pathways/Extended Day Magnet
- ▶ Ridge Hill: Global Studies and Citizenship
- ▶ Dunbar Hill: STEAM Magnet
- ▶ Bear Path: Environmental Sciences/Outdoor Education Magnet

Without magnet school choice, greater changes to attendance zones will need to occur.

Cost Implications - Using limited funds strategically

Anticipated Short-Term Maintenance

Several buildings are in need of significant repairs:

- ▶ Ridge Hill - \$8.2 million
- ▶ Dunbar Hill - \$6.7 million
- ▶ Central Office - \$1 million

ADA Upgrades

- ▶ Wintergreen - \$700,000

Without 3R Plan construction projects, the above costs for repairs (\$16.6 million) must be borne entirely by the town.

With the 3R Plan

Construction: Repairs and additions:

- ▶ Ridge Hill - (After 67.8% reimbursement) \$5.4 million
- ▶ Dunbar Hill - (After 67.8% reimbursement) \$5.7 million
- ▶ Church Street - (After 50% reimbursement) \$642,000
- ▶ Addition to HMS - (After 67.8% reimbursement) \$3.6 million

Pre-K Upgrades

- ▶ Bear Path - (no reimbursement) \$15,000
- ▶ Spring Glen - (no reimbursement) \$15,000

ADA Upgrades

- ▶ Wintergreen - (After 28.93% reimbursement) \$497,000

With the 3R Plan construction projects, the above costs for repair/construction (\$16.5) are significantly less.

Previously Approved Construction Costs

Alice Peck

- ▶ \$6.5 million: Reimbursed at 80%,
- ▶ Town of Hamden cost \$1.3 million

West Woods

- ▶ \$26.3 million: Reimbursed at 57.9%,
- ▶ Town of Hamden cost \$11.0 million

Shepherd Glen -

- ▶ To be deauthorized: 27.7 million

Repurposing Closed Buildings

Shepherd Glen Elementary

- ▶ Property is centrally located and provides multiple opportunities for redevelopment for the Town

Church Street Elementary

- ▶ Relocation of Central Office departments makes 60 Putnam Ave available to the Town for repurposing or redevelopment
- ▶ Relocation of HCLC program provides permanent, easy-to-access home for alternative program

Values of both of the above properties is not included in 3R financial analysis.

Optimizing Property Usage

Incorporating Wintergreen facility

- ▶ Provides "swing-space" during current construction project at Alice Peck
(Saves cost for portables/leasing/ADA upgrades)
- ▶ Allows for elimination of rental space for HCLC program
(savings estimated at \$350,000/year)
- ▶ Will provide more flexible space, efficiencies and stable programming for our most vulnerable students (IIC programs)
(savings estimated at >\$250,000/year, plus significant opportunities in program supports)
- ▶ Will serve as an attractive new elementary school for HPS families

Closing Schools

- ▶ Achieves better utilization of HPS facilities across the district (\$870,000/year for personnel)
- ▶ Allows town opportunities for redevelopment of Shepherd Glen and Central Office properties

Full implementation in 2023-24 SY

- ▶ All Hamden schools meet State of Connecticut diversity requirements
 - ▶ Modified attendance zones
 - ▶ Choice options for elementary parents - magnet schools
- ▶ HCLC and Central Office departments located in Church Street School, maintaining Family Resource Center, Health Clinic and Pre-K, and housing Hamden Youth Center
- ▶ All needed major improvements to Hamden elementary schools will be completed
- ▶ Pre-school is available at each elementary school at affordable cost
- ▶ HMS serves grades 6-8
- ▶ Wintergreen Elementary School opens, also serving IIC classrooms
- ▶ Operating and Capital budgets are sustainable in long-term