

CAPITAL PLAN 2022 SUCCESSSES

PLANNING FOR THE DISTRICT'S NEEDS THROUGH PAST INVESTMENTS

Through the one-penny education sales tax, ESPLOST, which has been the primary funding mechanism for previous capital plan improvements, Fulton County Schools' most urgent facility-related needs are being met.

Previous five-year capital planning cycles have responded to the district's most urgent needs, such as new school construction, renovations and building additions when the Fulton County housing market showed explosive growth. Safety and emergency preparedness also has been continuously prioritized with upgraded high-tech video camera systems in schools and school buses, visitor ID management, safety planning and communication tools, and patrol vehicles/specialized equipment for FCS police officers.

Adding to the district's overall safety strategy, Fulton County Schools now replaces its aging diesel school buses with propane-powered models that have student seat belts. The result is a safer bus fleet that is more cost-effective to operate and friendlier to the environment.

And as up-to-date technology continues to be a significant need, capital plans have focused on improving wireless networks, procuring software and applications, and refreshing outdated equipment. Educational tech platforms and mobile learning devices, such as tablets and laptops, have helped foster more engaging instruction and collaboration between school and home. Those investments allowed Fulton County Schools to offer in-person and remote learning options so students could safely continue their learning during a global pandemic.

»» IMPACT OF CAPITAL PLAN 2022

Capital Plan 2022 began in 2017 and is now in its final stages. Its impact is seen and felt in every school and facility throughout Fulton County Schools.

New Construction

New schools were constructed to provide classroom space based upon existing or projected overcrowding and/or overall physical condition.* In addition, new STEM-focused high school campuses create options for students seeking a non-traditional and rigorous high school experience in engineering, healthcare and information technology.

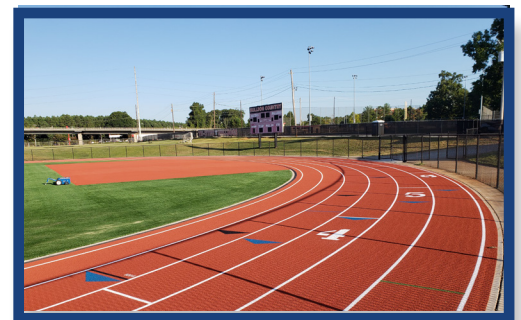
- Global Impact Academy and FCS Innovation Academy – new STEM-focused high schools
- Crabapple Middle School replacement
- Riverwood International Charter School replacement (to be completed in 2022)

* Replacement buildings for Conley Hills Elementary School and McClarin High School are still under discussion due to changing enrollment needs.

Renovations

Learning environments were improved through new roofing, plumbing, wiring, painting, water piping, HVAC, ADA renovations, infrastructure improvements, repaving, school system safety and security, sports equity, physical education facilities, classroom additions, and program-driven modifications.

- During Capital Plan 2022, major and minor renovation projects occurred at 88 schools. Improvements include repair or replacement of roofing, flooring, plumbing, windows, doors, ceilings, fire alarms and sprinklers, HVAC systems, mechanical system equipment, parking lot paving, painting, and correction of drainage issues and other site improvements.
- Renovation of middle school media centers similar to high school media center renovation project
- Fire alarm replacements at 16 schools
- Roof replacements at 18 schools
- Playground upgrades at 6 elementary schools
- Turf/track replacements at 13 high schools
- Freezer/cooler replacements at 3 schools and the FCS Warehouse



Technology

- Desktop computers/laptops/tablets (collectively called “devices”) purchased for students, staff and school computer labs
 - Nearly 76,000 learning devices purchased for students; individual devices provided for every middle and high school student while elementary students share a classroom set
 - 1,200+ CTAE lab devices refreshed
 - 600+ Fine Arts lab devices refreshed
 - 2,600+ devices deployed to new teachers
 - 6,500+ devices refreshed for existing teachers
- 6,700+ interactive classroom projectors installed
- District-wide applications upgraded to improve business operations and efficiency
- Office technology hardware, such as printers and copiers, replaced
- New platform for district-level and school websites purchased
- Improvements made to infrastructure management, including a refresh of 3,000+ wireless access points, establishment of a secondary data center, and increasing bandwidth to 60GB
- Device management tools upgraded
- Ongoing network refresh for schools and district data center
- Technology provisioned for new schools, support buildings and ongoing renovations

Safety and Security

- New digital video surveillance system (Avigilon) replaced older analog camera systems in 77 schools
- Visitor and volunteer management (Raptor) allows front office to crosscheck visitors’ IDs against sex offender databases
- Improved front entrance systems at schools that allows front office staff to verify visitors before granting them access
- 19 new or replacement emergency response vehicles added to school police fleet

Transportation, Furniture and Equipment

- Nearly 500 new propane-powered school buses with three-point student seat belts have replaced aging diesel models, leading to a safer, more cost efficient, and environmentally friendly fleet
- More than 100 replacement support vehicles purchased
- Bus surveillance camera upgrades
- Replaced, purchased, upgraded or supplemented capital equipment including, but not limited to, desks, chairs, tables, books, laboratory equipment, etc.

Debt Service

- Thanks to ESPLOST, the final installments of a general obligation bond secured in 1998 have been paid off. Capital Plan 2022 earmarked funds to pay off debt so that Fulton County property owners did not face an additional burden through their school taxes.



WHAT IS ESPLOST?

SPLOST – or Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax – was first enacted by the Georgia Legislature in 1985 as a method for governmental agencies to fund capital outlay projects. In 1996, the law was broadened to include school systems. In Fulton County Schools, that funding program is called ESPLOST. The “E” stands for “Education.”



Fulton County voters approved the first county-wide ESPLOST in 1997, allowing it to become the primary funding source for capital projects instead of relying on bonds or other long-term loans. This has reduced the Fulton County Board of Education’s reliance on property taxes or millage rates to fund school improvements, as the tax burden is shared more fairly among property and non-property owners, including those who visit Fulton County to work, shop or eat.

In Fulton County, ESPLOST is a one-penny sales tax levied for the purpose of funding new or replacement schools, building additions, and renovations to existing facilities. A large portion of the funds also has been earmarked to address aging technology within schools and to support the district’s personalized learning initiatives.

Since it began in Fulton County Schools, ESPLOST has generated more than \$3.2 billion to fund:

- 51 new or replacement schools
- 63 building additions
- Investments that support students and teachers in the classroom as well as district business operations
- Hundreds of systems replacement and upgrade projects throughout the school system
- Nearly 76,000 one-to-one devices issued to students, putting FCS in a strong position for remote learning as the COVID-19 pandemic changed instructional models
- Security enhancements, including building entrance access control, visitor management, and improved video camera systems, lighting, and fencing
- Safer, more cost efficient and environmentally friendly school bus fleet

ESPLOST generates more than \$180 million annually and is expected to have raised \$860 million for Fulton County Schools by the time the five-year tax expires on June 30, 2022.