

Pittsford Schools

Summary of Pools at Pittsford Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

The 2023 Capital Improvement Project includes changes affecting the swimming pools at both Mendon High School and Barker Road Middle School.

Mendon High School

Swimming pool is fully functional with an expected life of another 15-20 more years. Enhancements proposed in the 2023 capital project include a new timing system and scoreboard, sound system and renovations to the locker rooms, bleachers, tile and fixtures.



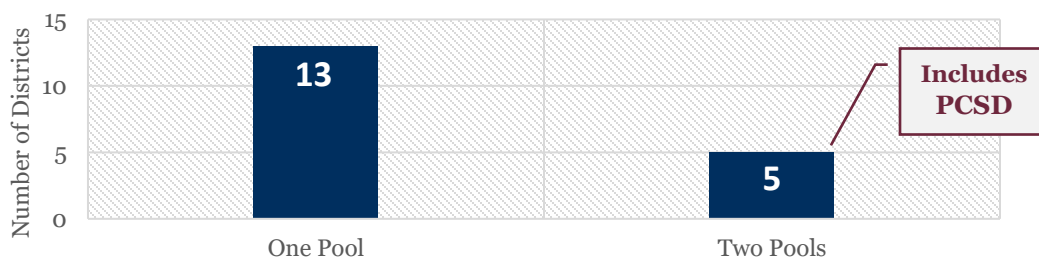
Barker Road Middle School

Pool is currently closed due to an unsustainable structure. This pool space will be filled in and repurposed to avoid new construction.



There are 19 schools districts in our neighboring area with swimming pools. Thirteen of these districts have only one swimming pool, while five districts, including Pittsford Central School District after the closure of Barker Road's pool, have two. One much larger district has three pools.

PCSD is committed to keeping and maintaining the pools at Calkins Road Middle School and Mendon High School which can continue to support our programs.



Why isn't there a new pool in this capital project?

The planning team initially identified a new pool as part of the District's \$300 million list of priorities in the Building Condition Report required by NYSED. We reviewed many options to bring a new pool to vote within this capital project but there were many considerations that led to the decision to postpone this endeavor:

- Given the amount of violence in schools nationwide, health and safety has become the number one priority.
- The proposed project at \$69.8 million will not increase the tax levy as the cost will be covered by the drop in debt from a previous projects.
- A new pool would cost \$30 million (almost half of the entire project) and while the work within the project is being reimbursed 75% by the state, the state would not reimburse the District the same for the pool. Therefore, the cost would have to be absorbed primarily by the local taxpayers.
- While benchmarking other area districts, the majority of them have one pool. PCSD remains committed to two pools (CRMS and MHS) to support our current needs.
- Both pools have the longevity needed to remain open through to the next capital project (approximately 15-20 years).
- Sensitivity to post-COVID-19 economy and inflation.

What is the long-term plan for the pools?

The board of education and superintendent are committed to maintaining two pools. We will be asking the public to vote on establishing a reserve for the specific use of pools/athletics during this May's budget vote. The district has also committed to meeting quarterly with pool stakeholders, consisting of the PCSD swim program, boosters, PACK and the YMCA to create a shared vision as it relates to the MHS pool and pools in general.

What investments has the District made in the pools since 2016?

- New HVAC system
- Updated filtration system
- New lighting
- New alarm system
- Drain and regouted ceramic tile shell
- New pool pump

What additional investments are in the 2023 Capital Improvement Project?

- A new scoreboard and integrated timing system
- New sound system
- Tile and fixture repairs
- Locker room renovations

What happens to the pools if this project does not pass?

Any renovation or consideration of a new pool will be further delayed if this referendum does not pass. The work slated for the MHS pool will not happen as there will not be authorized capital to support the scope.

I heard the MHS pool is failing and will not last through the next capital project vote.

There is no truth to this. The MHS pool has received the highest level of maintenance which will be enhanced if the project is approved. A pool with a concrete shell can last a good 75 + years if properly maintained and managed. General coatings/tile replacements, pipe and pump replacements are always needed at intervals along the way, which PCSD has done. It is estimated that the shell can last another 15-20 years based on its current condition.

Are two pools (CRMS and MHS) enough to sustain our swim programs?

Yes, all of our programs will continue to be supported. There are 19 schools districts in our neighboring area with swimming pools. Thirteen of these districts have only one swimming pool, while five districts, including Pittsford Central School District after the closure of Barker Road's pool, have two. One much larger district has three pools. PCSD is committed to keeping and maintaining the pools at Calkins Road Middle School and Mendon High School.

What would happen if one of the pools went off-line?

If we had to go down to one pool (which is not expected), we can accommodate our school teams, which is consistent with area districts with only one pool. Community teams can still practice and compete in our single pool, however, we would need to adjust days and times. Of note, the District does not foresee a pool needing to close and is committed to bringing either pool back on-line as soon as possible.

Is the CRMS pool good enough to host competitions?

The CRMS pool is equipped to run Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified swim practices and competitions. It has six lanes, a timing system, sound, and bleachers, just like Mendon's pool.

What if our State- and Nationally-ranked teams had to practice and compete at CRMS?

- CRMS pool is a certified and sanctioned pool by the NFHS and the NYSPHSAA to host interscholastic swim competitions at all levels.
- Currently we have zero boy divers on the team, and we had three girl divers this fall. Divers only practice 2-3 days a week and often they go right after school for an hour-long practice
- The outside lanes can be used while students are practicing diving. This currently occurs daily as student-athletes warm up

- In a 2-hour practice block, often 45 minutes of that session is on deck engaged in warm-up and dryland work and not in the water, so swimming allows for teams to overlap to condense time

Will the PACK Swim Club, Town and YMCA be impacted if PCSD has two pools?

No. Historically, PACK has only utilized MHS and CRMS. These remain open and will not impact their ability to continue use of our pool facilities. The Town has not requested to use our pools since before the COVID-19 pandemic due to a lack of staffing and community demand. However, PCSD has a highly collaborative relationship with the Town and would schedule time for their use should the need arise. Similarly, PCSD values its relationship with the YMCA and will work collaboratively with their directors to best accommodate their needs.