



# 2024-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT INFORMATION



Tuesday, Dec. 12  
12 to 9 p.m.  
Jefferson, Lincoln, &  
Washington schools

THE JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT REPORT | DECEMBER 2023

## A Message from Superintendent Kevin Whitaker, Ed.D



The Old Gym at Jamestown High School is a familiar place to many of our Jamestown High School alumni. Since the high school building's opening in 1934, its walls have seen hundreds of gym classes, wrestling meets, and basketball games. It even played host to a recruiting visit from legendary University of North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith.

But thanks to your support back in 2021, beginning this summer, the Old Gym and other areas at the high school will see some much-needed improvements as capital improvements begin to take shape at JHS all at no tax impact to our local community.

The capital improvements approved two years ago were the first of a 10-year plan to improve our school buildings. After diligent saving, we're once again looking for your support on another Capital Project on **December 12** that will allow us to continue our momentum in providing learning spaces that can better support students, teachers, and staff at a zero percent tax increase.

The 2024-2029 JPS Capital Improvement Project aims to provide **\$126 million of necessary improvements** to each building across the district as well as continued technology upgrades that will provide important safety and security infrastructure all at a **ZERO PERCENT TAX IMPACT** to our district taxpayers.

The goal of these improvements, once again, is to keep our students **WARM, SAFE, and DRY**. Much like your home, it is essential to keep the investment the community has made up to date. Like last time, our objectives are simple. In these improvements, we're looking to:

- Modernize classroom spaces
- Enhance safety, security & technology
- Perform essential maintenance to protect our investment



Students in Lisa Certo-Card's class at Fletcher Elementary School eagerly play a matching game on the First Day of School.

This includes the upgrading of auditoriums, cafeterias, heating and cooling infrastructure, increased safety and security measures, and so much more at each of our school buildings and our bus garage.

The JPS Capital Improvement Project will be funded through borrowing to be paid over a period of time. In order to repay the loans used for this project, debt payments will be offset by New York State building aid.

The New York State building aid ratio for JPS is 98% - which means, for every dollar spent on capital improvement work, the district receives 98 cents in aid. The remaining 2% will be funded by district reserve funds (a voter-sanctioned savings account for this specific purpose) and other state funds specific to capital improvement work. These funding sources enable the district to complete \$126 million in necessary improvements with no additional cost to the local taxpayer.

Under New York State law, the district cannot borrow money to fund personnel or other operational costs. However, money can be borrowed to invest in modernization and improvement of learning spaces that better support students, teachers, and staff.

We invite you to learn more about the project through this newsletter and encourage you to come out and vote on **Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 12 to 9 p.m. at Jefferson, Washington, and Lincoln schools.**

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

*Dr. Whitaker*

### JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JAMESTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
197 MARTIN ROAD  
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701  
716-483-4350  
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For more information, visit [jpsny.org/capitalproject](http://jpsny.org/capitalproject)

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John Panebianco, Joseph  
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## We See Every Child Learning Every Day!

### Voter Information

#### When and where is the vote?

Polling places will be open on **Tuesday, December 12, 2023 from 12 to 9 p.m.** at **Jefferson** Middle School (195 Martin Road), **Lincoln** Elementary School (301 Front Street), and **Washington** Middle School (159 Buffalo Street). Please call the District Office **(716) 483-4420** for information on polling information and where to vote.

#### Who is eligible to vote?

To be eligible to vote in the JPS Budget/Board of Education Election, an individual must be: at least 18 years of age, a United States citizen, a resident of the Jamestown School District for at least 30 days prior to Dec. 12, and a registered voter. If you have a question regarding voter eligibility, please contact the District Clerk at **(716) 483-4420**.

*Thank you for your support!*

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



# Capital Project Objectives

- Modernizing Classrooms & Student Spaces
- Enhancing Safety & Security
- Performing Essential Maintenance To Protect Our Investment



	High School	Jefferson MS	Persell MS	Washington MS	Bush Elementary	CC Ring Elem.	Fletcher Elem.	Lincoln Elementary	Love Elementary	Bus Garage
<b>Modern Student Spaces</b>										
Auditorium Upgrades or Technology										
Upgrade Kitchen Infrastructure										
Renovate & Improve the Cafeteria										
Gym Renovations										
Interior Flooring Replacements										
Bathroom Renovations										
Outdoor Track Improvements										
Outdoor Tennis & Pickleball Court Improvements										
<b>Essential Maintenance to Protect our Investment</b>										
Replace Leaky, Difficult to Open Windows										
Replace Out of Warranty Roofs										
Replace Deteriorated Doors										
Interior Stair Renovations										
Heating & Cooling Improvements										
Building System & Equipment Replacement										
Safe & Accessible Parking Lots										
Safe & Accessible Sidewalks										
Safe & Accessible Exterior Stairs & Ramps										
Retaining Walls										
<b>Enhanced Safety, Security &amp; Technology</b>										
Replace Old Generators or Add One to Building										
Replace Failing Clocks										
Emergency Systems & Communication Systems										
Replace Electronic Road Sign										
Replace Exterior Building Lighting										
Exterior Site Security Improvements										
Security Window Film										



Auditorium improvements for Ring and Bush schools would upgrade sound, lighting, and seating.

Proposed improvements to air-handling units, like the one seen pictured from Bush School, would help to regulate a building's temperature.



Structural improvements to building retaining walls, like the one seen at Jamestown High School (left), are among the proposed upgrades.

## JPS Capital Project 2024-29 Questions & Answers

### Q. What will be the total cost of the proposed JPS Capital Improvement Project?

The estimated cost of the five-year capital improvement project is **not to exceed \$126 million**. This amount represents the total sum that will support the scope of the entire project, with repairs and improvements to be made in eleven district buildings.

### Q. I just voted on a Capital Improvements Project in 2021. Why are we voting on another project two years later?

Work approved by district taxpayers in 2021 is currently ongoing across Jamestown Public Schools. To best preserve our educational environment, we want to continue our positive momentum and not skip a beat in our multi-year construction timeline in order to maintain, protect, and enhance our facilities for student use into the future. The scope of work included in this project aims to address improvements unable to be included two years ago. The work left to do is significant and cannot be funded by the local budget alone, without an undesirable impact to local property taxes. The upgrades, renovations, and replacements outlined in the 2024 Capital Project are needed improvements to keep our students warm, safe, and dry in a positive learning environment, accomplished with no additional burden on local taxpayers.

### Q. How will this project be funded?

The JPS Capital Improvement Project will be funded through borrowing to be paid over a period of time. In order to repay the loans used for this project, debt payments will be offset by New York State building aid. The New York State building aid ratio for JPS is 98% - which means, for every dollar spent on capital improvement work, the district receives 98 cents in aid. The remaining 2% will be funded by district reserve funds (a voter-sanctioned savings account for this specific purpose) and other state funds specific to capital improvement work. These funding sources enable the district to complete \$126 million in necessary improvements with no additional cost to the local taxpayer.

### Q. Why not fund repairs and renovations through the regular budget?

Under New York State law, the district cannot borrow money to fund personnel or other operational costs. However, money can be borrowed to invest in modernization and improvement of learning spaces that better support students, teachers, and staff.

Large building projects such as roofs, plumbing, and structural renovations are too costly to include in a school district's annual operating budget. Through a bond vote, we are able to borrow funds to be repaid with state building aid that may only be used for capital projects, and cannot be used for operational expenses. By spreading the cost over several years through a capital project, and maximizing available building aid, we are able to complete millions of dollars of essential repairs and renovations with no impact to the local taxpayer.

### Q. How does this project benefit the community?

A school district's facilities are a reflection of its educational program. A quality school district helps to protect and increase property values while enhancing marketability to attract future homeowners. Not only can the proposed project be completed with no increase to local taxes, it has the potential to improve property values by improving the overall condition of our school buildings and the appeal of our community.

**Capital Project Vote | Dec. 12, 2023**  
 12 to 9 p.m. | Jefferson, Lincoln, & Washington schools  
 Find more FAQs at [jpsny.org/capitalproject](https://www.jpsny.org/capitalproject)