



STATE HIGH: THE NEXT 50 YEARS

You can make a difference!

BUILDING CONCEPT:

The District started with six design concepts. A recent survey of a representative sample of our community showed that two of those concepts share broad support. The Board voted on Sept. 9, 2013, to move forward with "Concept D."



The project, if approved by district voters, will:

- Build all core academic areas on the South side of Westerly Parkway
- Include a combination of renovation and new construction
- Preserve a portion of the existing North school building (natatorium and gymnasiums) to serve student and community needs.

WHY A SOUTH BUILDING SOLUTION?

- Most supportive of security and safety needs
- Greater flexibility for the educational model
- A compact footprint to maximize site usage for educational functions, and to increase teacher/student interactions.
- Less duplication of spaces and services
- More in-class learning time, less travel time between classes

GOALS

- Improve outdated facilities
- Strengthen relationships
- Foster a secure, healthy and nurturing environment
- Rigorous programs and more personalized learning for every student

STRATEGIES

- Reorganize building spaces to support learning communities
- Modernize systems to improve security, air quality, comfort, lighting and energy efficiency
- Increase opportunities for "real world" applications and project-based learning so each student develops competence, skills, initiative & persistence
- Continue to foster critical thinking, communication, innovation and adaptability
- Improve student and community facility use beyond the regular school day

OUTCOMES

- Facility that is educationally, fiscally and environmentally sustainable to serve our community's needs for many decades
- Students equipped to compete and succeed in a changing global society

CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL: AN AGING AND FAILING FACILITY



The original high school North and South buildings were constructed in 1955 and 1962. After four additions but no major renovations, 85% of the State High campus is now over 40 years old.

The configuration of the buildings creates many logistical and safety concerns:

- The windows, heating and ventilation, electrical, and plumbing systems require complete replacement.
- Parts of both buildings leak or flood
- Most of the classrooms are undersized; many lack windows
- The classrooms and other learning spaces lack the flexibility to support today's high school education
- Neither building meets current codes; some parts are not ADA compliant

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES?¹

THE NEXT STATE HIGH

This building project will support flexible learning spaces that maximize student-teacher relationships to boost student growth and achievement.

Collaborative learning communities of teachers and staff who share no more than a few hundred students are a building block for future focused schools. Communities pool their knowledge to create coherent and relevant instructional programs that challenge and engage every student. Dedicated building space enables more collaboration, reinforcing student identity and improving school safety.

Small learning communities would include:

- Ninth grade academies
- Multi-grade schools organized around academic and career interests

An educational model proposal was presented at the August 26th Board meeting and posted on the high school project website (<http://www.scasd.org/statehighfuture>)

(1). From *High Schools to Learning Communities: Five Domains of Best Practice*. Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 2008.

"State College Area High School has a strong tradition of success both inside and outside of the classroom. Currently, State High is organized using an educational model that emphasizes a department structure. Such a structure results in students often not seeing their teachers other than during class times and traveling regularly throughout the building and sometimes across the street between classes.

As a school community, we recognize the value of strong interpersonal relationships, responsive teaching and learning, high expectations for all, and a welcoming and safe school environment. A ninth grade transition experience for younger students and allowing our older students to participate in theme-based learning communities will support these goals and will build upon the tradition of excellence for which State High is known. We look forward to the positive impact this will have on teaching, learning, and student experiences."

- Scott DeShong,
State College Area High School Principal

June 2008
Board contracts with DeJong and Associates for a new District-Wide Facilities Master Plan and a High School educational specification.

2010-11
Phase I of DWFMP: addition to Gray's Woods Elementary, renovate/add to Ferguson Township Elementary, and build Mount Nittany Elementary School

July 2012
Board selects Architects Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates

Oct 2012
Board selects the educational planning firm BrainSpaces, Inc. to refine the High School educational model

Jan 2013
Community Engagement Action Team Formed

Jan-Apr 2013
Community Forums

May-Jun 2013
Randomized Community Surveys

July 2013
Board receives results of community survey and downselects to 2 concepts

Sep 2013
Board will downselect to 1 concept

Oct 2013 - Feb 2014
Final concept presented for community input and municipal approval.

Jan 2014
Schematic design completed

May 20, 2014
Anticipated referendum on high school project

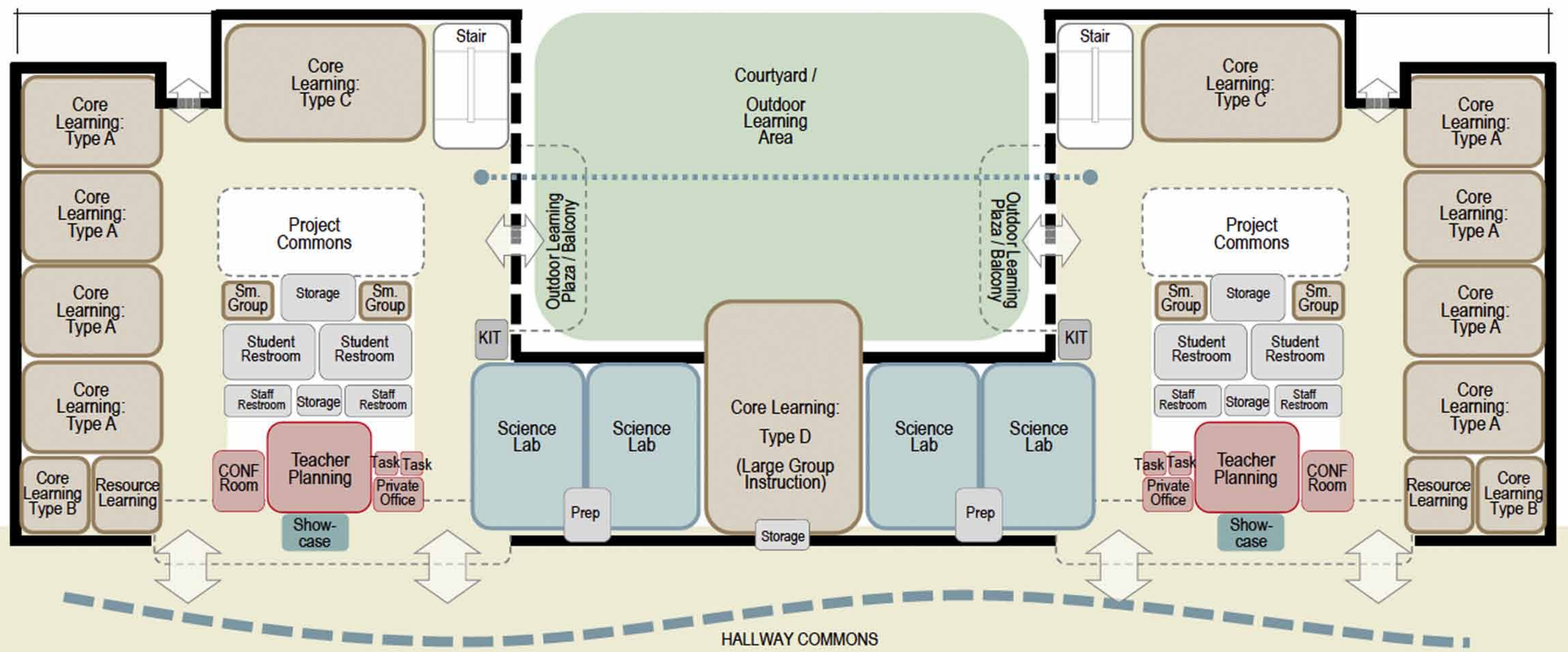
Early 2015
Final design

Mid 2015
Construction begins

2017
Project completion

Late 2017 / Early 2018
Building occupancy

COMPONENTS OF A LEARNING COMMUNITY SPACE



sample diagram courtesy of BrainSpaces, Inc.

TAX IMPLICATIONS²

Total Project Cost	Mills ³	Increase ⁵	Property Tax ⁴	
			Annual	Monthly
\$90 MILLION	2.031	5.2%	\$145	\$12.06
\$100 MILLION	2.348	6.1%	\$167	\$13.95
\$110 MILLION	2.665	6.9%	\$190	\$15.83
\$115 MILLION	2.824	7.3%	\$201	\$16.78

²Tax implications include the high school project only, and would be added to your existing school property taxes for the duration of the bonds funding the project. These numbers are current as of September 2013.

³Mills are preliminary estimates assuming that thirty-year bonds will fund the project and that the district will direct 1/2 (one half) mill of its existing capital reserve budget toward the high school project, and would contribute an initial down payment of \$10 million. If these assumptions change, your property tax impact would be different.

⁴Taxes are based on the average assessed value of a single family residential property in the SCASD (\$71,296). Assessed value equals 50% of 1995 market value. To estimate your additional tax impact, locate your assessed value on your most recent tax bill, divide by 1000, then multiply by the mills from the table. You can also visit the project website to use the online tax calculator.

⁵Percent increases are based on the 2013-2014 property tax rate of 38.75 mills, or \$38.75 per \$1000 of assessed value.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The SCASD Board of Directors voted unanimously to pursue "Concept D" as the final concept for the High School project at the September 9, 2013, board meeting. After first narrowing the choices to only those concepts supported by a majority of respondents to a 6,751 person survey of a representative sample of our community, the Board evaluated the remaining concepts based upon criteria submitted by its advisory committees.

Upcoming board work sessions and community forums will focus on refining the educational model, the educational specifications, and the financing and budgeting for the High School project. Our design firm, Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates, will be working on a schematic design that will be submitted to the Board and community prior to a referendum vote on the project.

There will be a public referendum to fund the High School building project at the May 20, 2014, primary election. All registered voters, including independent voters, may vote on this ballot question. State law determines how the ballot question will be worded, permitting only a vote on whether to raise taxes to fund a specific project.

Following a successful referendum, the project will be bid and construction will begin. The project is expected to be complete in late 2017/early 2018.

Thank you for helping to make the new State High a reality!

Learn More, Get Involved!
<http://www.scasd.org/statehighfuture>

