

# BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



# BOND FAQ

## What will be on the November ballot and how much will it cost?

The BLSD Board of Education voted to place a 3.92 mill bond issue on the November 5, 2024, for the building of the new high school. In Buckeye Local School district, the average county appraised property value is \$279,200. The cost to fund this issue is estimated at \$32.08/month or \$385/year.

## Why a Master Facilities Plan?

A Master Facilities Plan is an opportunity to set forth a roadmap that allows for state-of-the-art facilities in a fiscally responsible manner. By reconfiguring our district buildings, we are setting our district up for decades of success. This plan is not a quick fix but a long-term commitment to ensuring the success of Buckeye Local Schools. The buildings will foster an innovative learning environment.

## What is included in the Master Facilities Plan?

The Campus Facilities Master Plan includes the renovation of the existing high school into a junior high school and the construction of a new high school located at the corner of Columbia and Wolff Roads. The new high school will include upgraded STEM learning opportunities, enhanced arts facilities, modern technology, advanced safety and security systems, auditorium and gymnasium.

## Why now?

Buckeye Junior High School was built in 1957. Its current condition simply does not justify additional expenditures for facility repairs and upgrades. It's time to demolish the junior high school building and construct new facilities for the most conducive student learning environment. Acting now allows us to secure funding through a combination of current funds, COPS loan, and a bond issue. This ensures we use resources effectively and minimize the financial burden on taxpayers. Delaying will only increase costs and negatively impact students' learning environments.

## Why do we need a new high school?

Building a new high school is a more cost-effective and strategic long-term solution.

Building a new high school will provide modern, safe, and efficient learning environments with state-of-the-art technology and facilities. It will also be designed to allow for a future junior high addition, ensuring we are prepared

for growth and future needs. Meanwhile, we will make the necessary updates to the current high school to serve junior high students, and the old junior high will be demolished. This plan allows us to make the best use of our resources while providing excellent educational facilities for all our students.

## How will the Master Facility Plan be funded?

A combination of cash reserves, a bond issue, and certificate of participation (COPS) loan is recommended for funding this facilities project. This strategic approach balances financial stability, fosters community engagement and leverages available resources to support long-term financial health while minimizing tax burdens for residents.

### Cash Reserves - \$5 million:

- Cash reserves are district savings accumulated over the years.
- Consistent fiscal responsibility has built cash reserves to help fund this project.

### Bond Issue - \$59 million:

- Requires a community vote for approval.
- Can only be used for the specific purposes outlined in the ballot language.
- The expected term is 35 years.

### Certificate of Participation (COPS) - \$10 million:

- Allows the district to leverage NEXUS revenue.
- Functions like a mortgage.
- Can be renewed annually for up to 30 years.
- Will not raise your taxes.

## Will the bond issue fund salaries or operating expenses?

No, the bond will be used to fund the components outlined in The Master Facilities Plan.

# BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



# BOND FAQ

## What will happen to the Junior High School?

The junior high school will be demolished. The current high school will be renovated to accommodate the junior high students.

## What reimbursement will Buckeye Local Schools receive through the State of Ohio Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP)?

By choosing to engage in the Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP), Buckeye Local Schools positions itself to receive State reimbursement for a portion of the costs incurred on the facilities project. The reimbursement rate stands at 19% of eligible expenses determined according to the criteria set out in the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) Design Manual.

## When will the Buckeye Elementary School bond issue come off resident tax bills?

The final payment for the Buckeye Elementary School bond issue is scheduled for December 2025. Originally passed in 2000 at 5.49 mills, the current collection rate stands at 1.4 mills. This impending final payment signifies a pivotal moment as the financial obligation will be lifted from taxpayers in future tax bills.

Elementary Bond Issue **FINAL PAYMENT** is December 2025. With this final payment, your tax bill will be reduced.

## How long will the bond last?

The bond will last 35 year term.

## What is the The Master Facilities Plan Timeline?

- **Fall 2025:** Begin construction of the high school.
- **Fall 2028:** Complete the construction of the new high school at the corner of Wolff and Columbia Roads.
- **Fall 2028:** Finish necessary minimum facility upgrades to the existing high school to accommodate junior high students.
- **Fall 2028:** Demolish the existing junior high school and improve overall campus traffic flow.

## How can I get more information about the Master Facilities Plan?

For additional information beyond what is available on our facilities planning page on the district website, please contact Jeff Stanton at [jstanton@buckeyeschools.org](mailto:jstanton@buckeyeschools.org).

## What happens if the bond does not pass?

If the bond does not pass, the district will need to reassess its options. Any delay in the project will increase overall costs. The critical facility issues will remain, negatively impacting the learning environment for students and increasing the financial burden to the district.

## How did you involve the community in the development of the Master Facilities Plan?

The community played a vital role in developing the Master Facilities Plan. A district-wide survey was conducted to gather input on school facilities, highlighting the need for improvements in safety, technology, and 21st-century learning environments. Additionally, a Campus and Facility Task Force, consisting of over fifty community members, provided invaluable recommendations which guided the repurposing of the high school into a junior high and the plans for the new high school. The Campus and Facilities Task Force has been crucial in ensuring the plan meets the district's needs while keeping the tax burden as low as possible.

## How will you keep parents and community members informed of the plans and progress?

We will keep parents and community members informed through regular updates on the district website, social media channels, regular newsletters, and community meetings.



# BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOLS MASTER FACILITIES PLAN

The Campus Facilities Master Plan, developed by the Campus and Facility Task Force, addresses the district's critical facility needs identified through extensive community engagement. This dedicated group of about fifty community members met monthly to provide insights and recommendations, resulting in a detailed report presented to the Board of Education in April. The plan was approved on May 14, and the Board of Education has placed a bond issue on the November 2024, ballot.

## THE APPROVED PLAN INCLUDES:

### NEW HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION:

**Location:** Corner of Wolff and Columbia Roads.

**Features:** The new high school will have upgraded STEM learning opportunities, enhanced arts facilities, modern technology, advanced safety and security systems, auditorium and gymnasium.

**Future Planning:** The new high school is designed with infrastructure that allows for the addition of learning spaces in the future, ensuring the district can accommodate evolving needs and growth in a fiscally responsible manner.

### Demolition of the Existing Junior High

**School:** Built in 1957, the junior high school will be demolished due to significant maintenance issues and outdated infrastructure.

### UPGRADES TO THE EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL:

- Necessary renovations to accommodate junior high students and their academic needs.

### CAMPUS TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVEMENTS:

- Enhancements to improve overall traffic flow, ensuring safety and efficiency for students and visitors.

## FUNDING SOURCES:

**\$5 million** from district cash reserves

- Money saved by the district's responsible financial management.

**\$10 million** from a Certificate of Participation (COPs) loan

- Does not affect taxpayers.

**\$59 million** from the bond issue

- Requires a community vote for approval.
- Can only be used for the specific purposes outlined in the ballot language.
- The expected term is 35 years.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

**FALL 2025:** Begin construction of the high school

**FALL 2028:** Complete the new high school at the corner of Wolff and Columbia Roads.

Finish necessary upgrades to the existing high school to accommodate junior high students.

Demolish the existing junior high school and improve overall campus traffic flow.

**On the November 5, 2024, Ballot**  
**3.92 mill bond issue**

**Cost to Residents:** In Buckeye Local School district, the average county appraised property value is \$279,200. The cost to fund this issue is estimated at \$32.08/month or \$385/year.

## STAY INFORMED:

**WEBSITE:** Visit our facilities planning page on the district website for regular updates.

**CONTACT:** For more details, contact Jeff Stanton at [jstanton@buckeyeschools.org](mailto:jstanton@buckeyeschools.org).

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Attend community meetings and follow us on social media for the latest news.