



Frequently Asked Questions

In April 2025, KCPS will place a General Obligation (GO) Bond on the ballot for funding to support capital improvements to our facilities. KCPS has not had a GO Bond since 1967.

Check out this FAQ to learn more about how we're investing in Kansas City kids!

Q: What is Building the Blueprint?

A: *Building the Blueprint, KCPS' 10-Year Capital Funding Plan, is a roadmap for prioritizing school facility improvements over the next decade. The plan outlines the facility needs (and costs) at all KCPS sites, as well as potential resources necessary to fund the facility improvements.*

Q: How is the district identifying and prioritizing its current and future building needs?

A: *The district has conducted third-party assessments of our current and future building infrastructure needs. This data includes:*

- **Building Condition Assessments (BCAs)**, which identify which systems are broken, aging or at the end of their life cycle (\$650+ million in facility needs).
- **Learning Environment Assessments, also called Educational Suitability Assessments (ESAs)**, which evaluate how well buildings support the teaching and learning priorities in the district's Blueprint 2030 Strategic Plan (\$600 million in facility needs).

Using the condition assessments and ESAs, as well as feedback from community stakeholders, KCPS has identified facility improvement priorities.

The assessment summaries for each school, along with draft recommendations for facility improvements, can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/KCPSdashboard>.

Q: How would building renovations and updates improve our students' academic outcomes and achievement?

A: KCPS has demonstrated significant gains in student achievement, and through this work has regained and sustained full accreditation. As we remain focused on improving academic achievement for every child, we must also invest in our school facilities, as research shows the physical environment impacts student learning and academic outcomes. Numerous studies, including the 2021 State of our Schools Report, have found that temperature, classroom layout, building design, acoustics, lighting and air quality all support better educational outcomes. This is a significant challenge without dedicated funding for facility improvements.

As it stands, we are struggling to keep up with basic repairs to our buildings' infrastructure (average age of KCPS buildings is 60 years old), such as electric wiring, windows, doors, roofs, plumbing, foundations and HVAC systems. We have \$1.25 billion in critical deferred maintenance and needed improvements to the learning environment. This backlog significantly impacts the overall learning experience for our students - we need buildings that will empower our district's continued academic progress.

Q: What's in the draft 10-Year Capital Funding Plan?

A: The draft plan has three (3) core facility improvement priorities:

- 1) Addressing deferred maintenance*
- 2) Improving the learning environment*
- 3) Funding necessary facility improvements to allow for a transition to 6-8th grade middle schools.*

This would be achieved through a strategic combination of renovations (including relocations and co-locations) and new construction that will also allow KCPS to reduce its facility needs by more than \$300 million by taking older facilities off-line and moving students to newer and improved facilities.

Details of the draft plan can be viewed at <https://www.kcpublicschools.org/bond/capital-planning>.

Q: What community engagement has been part of drafting the 10-Year Capital Funding Plan?

A: Between January and July 2024, KCPS engaged with more than 3,000 people about our school building needs and to identify a vision for KCPS school facilities over the next 10 years. This included sharing information and collecting feedback from staff, students, families and community members at workshops, town halls, public presentations, surveys and a site tour: almost 90 engagements to date!

The draft plan, informed by community feedback and guidance of a steering committee, was presented to the school board in August 2024. KCPS is currently seeking community feedback on its draft 10-Year Capital Funding Plan and plans to present final recommendations to the school board in November 2024.

Q: How does KCPS propose funding these facility improvements?

A: The draft 10-Year Capital Funding Plan outlines a range of potential funding sources to address a minimum of \$680 million of KCPS facility needs over the next 10 years. The first phase would include raising \$524 million from two critical funding sources: A General Obligation (GO) Bond that will go before the voters in April 2025 and a \$100 million Certificate of Participation (COP) Bond.

Q: What is a General Obligation (GO) Bond?

A: General Obligation (GO) bonds are the primary means for Missouri school districts to generate revenue for facility improvements and construction projects. School districts pay back the bonds through property taxes.

Q: When was the last time voters approved a GO Bond for KCPS?

A: KCPS is currently the only school district in the region without voter-approved General Obligation (GO) Bond funding. The last time voters approved GO Bond funding for KCPS was 1967. Since then, the district made 19 attempts to pass either a bond or a tax levy increase but none was successful. The last major investment in school facilities was nearly 30 years ago in the mid-1990s, funded by desegregation money.

Q: How are GO Bonds approved?

A: For the April 2025 election, a GO Bond requires support from at least four out of seven voters within the district's boundaries (or, about 57 percent).

Q: What is a COP Bond?

*A: In the spring of 2025, KCPS will issue a Certificate of Participation (COP) Bond to raise \$100 million for critical facility improvements. The COP Bond will be paid off over the next 25 years using additional operating revenues that KCPS receives each year from the recent reassessments. COP Bonds **do not** require voter approval and **will not increase taxes**.*

Q: How large will the COP Bond and the GO Bond be?

A: The draft 10-Year Capital Funding Plan calls for a \$100 million COP Bond and a \$474 million GO Bond, which would include funding for KCPS (\$424 million) and participating charter schools (up to \$50 million). The recommended amounts will be finalized in November 2024, after

additional rounds of community engagement, polling, and finalizing agreements with interested charter schools.

Q: What is the impact of the GO Bond on my property taxes?

A: The draft 10-Year Capital Funding Plan calls for a \$474 million GO Bond, which would include funding for KCPS (\$424 million) and participating charter schools (up to \$50 million). For the average voter (with a home value of \$200,000), this would cost 64 cents/day, or **less than \$20/month**.

Kansas City Public Schools	
Home Property Tax Increase	
Tax Levy Increase	\$474MM 0.6100
Cost to Homeowner of Projected Tax Levy Increase	
Annual Property Tax	
\$100,000 Home	115.90
\$200,000 Home	231.80
\$300,000 Home	347.70
\$400,000 Home	463.60
\$500,000 Home	579.50
Monthly Property Tax	
\$100,000 Home	9.66
\$200,000 Home	19.32
\$300,000 Home	28.98
\$400,000 Home	38.63
\$500,000 Home	48.29
Daily Property Tax	
\$100,000 Home	0.32
\$200,000 Home	0.64
\$300,000 Home	0.95
\$400,000 Home	1.27
\$500,000 Home	1.59
Median Home Value	\$180,000

Q: Property taxes are already so high. Why does KCPS need more money?

A: In the state of Missouri, school districts rely on General Obligation (GO) Bonds to fund facility needs like new buildings, building repairs and renovations, and technology and security upgrades. **KCPS is the only district in the region without one.** Industry standard recommends that KCPS should expend at least \$77 million per year in facility improvements and upgrades to effectively address our facility needs. **This isn't possible without GO Bonds.** Voters haven't passed a GO Bond for KCPS since 1967.

In KCPS, property taxes fund an operating levy, which is dedicated toward operating expenses such as teacher salaries, utilities, building supplies, and transportation. Without GO Bond funding, it is not possible for KCPS to stay on top of its facility needs, resulting in a total of \$1.25 billion in facility needs. Even with the additional operating revenues that KCPS is receiving since the 2023 reassessments, a significant portion of which are being dedicated to facility improvements, KCPS does not have sufficient funding to address our pressing facility needs.

Q: KCPS received additional revenues from the 2023 Jackson County reassessments. Is that funding facility improvements?

A: In FY24, KCPS received \$40 million in additional revenue from higher property values associated with the Jackson County reassessments. Of that, \$13.3 million was used to give teachers and staff raises. The remaining funds went toward improving school facilities, including upgrades to HVAC systems, security cameras, and structural repairs. The district spent \$17.6 million in FY24, and the remaining will be used for more facility improvements in FY25.

In the FY25 budget, KCPS had a decrease in assessed valuation of \$43.3 million (decreasing revenues by approximately \$7 million). The budget was further reduced by \$30 million due to the end of the federal ESSER program funding. Due to these budget reductions in FY25, a higher amount of the reassessment revenues was directed to operating needs, and KCPS set aside a lower amount, \$13 million for building and facility improvements, than in FY24. \$7 million of that will be used to cover the annual cost of a Certificate of Participation (COP) bond the district plans to pursue in 2025. While KCPS is able to fund some facility improvements each year with the additional reassessment revenues, the amount of funding is insufficient to address KCPS facility needs. For these reasons, KCPS is pursuing dedicated capital funding through a GO Bond in April 2025.

Q: Many local school districts put “no tax increase” funding measures on the ballot to raise money for the school improvements. Will that happen for KCPS?

A: Yes, KCPS is working to develop a financially sustainable long-term plan that will include no tax increase GO Bond funding in the future. In districts where a “no tax increase” bond has been proposed, they have first received voter support for a tax increase(s), which are used to pay off the bonds over a set period of time. As these bonds are paid off (or the tax base expands), districts may go back to voters for approval of another bond to fund additional facility improvements. In these cases, the new bond replaces the older bond, so the total tax levy (amount collected from property taxes) remains the same, avoiding any increase to taxpayers. This is often called a “no tax increase” bond because it does not increase taxes beyond what residents are already paying. KCPS currently has no voter approved bond funding and is the only Missouri school district in this region without it. Before KCPS can propose a “no tax increase” bond, the district must first request a tax increase bond, which will happen in April 2025.

Q: KCPS received significant funding for facilities during desegregation? Why should we invest more now?

*A: Just like our homes, school building systems like roofs, HVAC systems, electrical, plumbing, require repairs, replacement and upgrades. The court-mandated desegregation spending on our school facilities was **nearly 30 years ago**, and it failed to set aside money for ongoing repairs and renovations of our schools. **The average age of our school buildings is 60 years old, with many closer to 100.** Our 10-Year Capital Funding Plan does what the courts did not: It plans for sustainable and transparent investment in our facilities, and it directly involves our community in the planning process as well as the oversight of expenditures through a Community Bond Oversight Committee.*

Q: If approved by voters, how will the funds be spent, and how will we know if the funds are well-managed?

A: GO Bond funds would be used to address deferred maintenance and improve learning environments in accordance with our 10-Year Capital Funding Plan. A draft of this plan was presented to the school board in August 2024 (available for viewing at <https://www.kcpublicschools.org/bond/capital-planning>). The district is seeking additional community feedback and will make final recommendations to the board in November 2024. When finalized, the 10-Year Capital Funding Plan will serve as a roadmap for prioritizing these school facility needs over the next decade.

To manage the GO Bond funding responsibly, KCPS will hire an independent auditor to manage and verify that funds are used appropriately for approved capital projects. In addition, the Superintendent recommends the creation of an independent Community Bond Oversight Committee that will inform the public on how GO Bond funds are spent, provide oversight to ensure bond funds are only spent for the purposes approved by voters, and to produce an annual report to summarize the committee’s findings and activities. Although the use of a trustee and a Community Bond Oversight Committee aren’t required for GO Bonds, KCPS is taking these extra steps to build trust and ensure transparency.

As a sign of our financial reliability, S&P Global Ratings has assigned KCPS an “A” long-term rating since COP bonds were issued in 2016. At the same time, S&P also affirmed an “A+” credit rating and “A” rating on the district’s existing debt.

Q: Will charter schools receive funding from a GO Bond if it passes?

A: While KCPS has been working to develop a 10-Year Capital Funding Plan, including recommendations for GO Bond projects, KCPS has also invited KC charter schools to participate in April 2025 GO Bond. Under Missouri statute, school districts may use bond proceeds for the

benefit of charter schools provided that the capital improvements comply with federal tax law rules related to the use of tax-exempt bonds and the school district/charter school(s) enter a contract regarding the terms of use. KCPS and local charter schools are currently in exploratory discussions regarding their interest in participating and eligibility to receive funds. Eight charter schools have expressed interest in participating in the April 2025 GO Bond and have identified more than \$168 million in facility needs. The charters are now working to prioritize their facility needs to be included in the GO Bond package (up to \$50 million). KCPS and interested charter schools are working to finalize Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in October.

Q: How can the community support the bond initiative?

A: *Our students need you!* *There are many ways to get involved. KCPS wants your feedback on the draft 10-Year Capital Funding Plan and bond initiative. To learn about upcoming events/activities or to sign up to become a Community Ambassador, go to <https://www.kcpublicschools.org/bond/bond-outreach>. KCPS is committed to meeting Kansas Citians where they are and listening to our community as we finalize our facility improvement priorities.*

*Paid for by the Kansas City Public Schools, Dr. Jennifer Collier, Superintendent,
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