



# Facilities Master Plan Bond Issue FAQ

## What is the Facilities Master Plan?

The Facilities Master Plan is Wooster City Schools' long-term strategy to improve learning environments for students while being responsive to community needs. Following the unsuccessful May 2023 bond issue, the district re-engaged with families, staff, and the broader community through conversations, surveys, and meetings. **Based on this feedback, the revised Facilities Master Plan now focuses on constructing a new 6-8 middle school while maintaining and redistricting our elementary schools.**

Key updates in the revised plan include:

- ***A new middle school at a reduced cost to homeowners***
- ***Redistricting elementary students among three remaining elementary schools***
- ***Addressing the aging Cornerstone building***
- ***Retaining neighborhood schools***

This plan reflects the priorities and concerns shared by our community and will require a bond issue on the May 2025 ballot to move forward. To learn more about the Facilities Master Plan and the Redistricting Plan, please visit <https://www.woostercityschools.org/district-info/facilities-master-plan>.

## How much will it cost?

The total cost of the new middle school project is \$67 million, which is \$35 million less than the district's previous bond request in May 2023. This reduction is due to the revised plan focusing solely on constructing a new 6-8 middle school.

## State Contribution & Local Cost

A \$9 million contribution from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) will help lower the local financial burden while ensuring a modern, high-quality facility for students and the community.

## Cost to Property Owners

- Bond Millage: 3.4 mills
- Annual Cost per \$100,000 of Property Valuation: \$119
- Monthly Cost per \$100,000 of Property Valuation: \$10

This cost represents a reduced financial commitment for the community, \$116 less annually than the previous bond request.

## Why Now?

Construction and material costs continue to rise. Delaying this project would only increase the cost of building a new school in the future. This bond issue ensures that Wooster students have modern learning environments while maintaining affordability for taxpayers.



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## Are we at the millage floor?

No, Wooster City Schools is not at the 20-mill floor. This is because all of our levies are continuing levies, while other districts in the county rely on income taxes and/or emergency levies—which do not count toward the 20-mill floor.

## Understanding the 20-Mill Floor & School Funding

In Ohio, House Bill 920 (H.B. 920) was passed in 1976 to protect homeowners from rising property taxes due to inflation. This law ensures that school districts cannot collect more money from existing properties due to property value increases, except when districts reach the 20-mill floor.

Since Wooster City Schools remains above the 20-mill floor, the district's millage rates are automatically rolled back during property reappraisals, keeping taxes revenue-neutral. This means that while the cost of operating schools continues to rise by 3-5% annually, school tax revenue does not increase at the same rate.

## What is the redistricting plan?

The Wooster City Schools Board of Education approved a redistricting plan on November 19, 2024, to ensure a balanced distribution of students across elementary schools. Redistricting will occur regardless of the outcome of the May 2025 bond issue.

## Key Redistricting Changes

- The Redistricting Plan will evenly distribute grades K-2 at Kean, Melrose, and Parkview by revising geographic boundaries.
- Redistricting will help manage enrollment growth caused by more than 700 planned housing units, with most development occurring on the north end of Wooster.

## If the Bond Passes (New Middle School Built):

- Redistricting takes effect for the 2028-2029 school year
- Grade Breakdown:
  - Preschool: Parkview or Kean
  - Grades K-2: Kean, Melrose, Parkview
  - Grades 3-5: Edgewood
  - Grades 6-8: New Middle School
  - Grades 9-12: High School



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## If the Bond Does Not Pass (No New Middle School):

- Redistricting takes effect for the 2026-2027 school year
- Grade Breakdown:
  - Preschool: Cornerstone, Parkview, or Kean
  - Grades K-2: Kean, Melrose, Parkview
  - Grades 3-4: Cornerstone
  - Grades 5-7: Edgewood
  - Grades 8-12: High School

The goal of redistricting is to balance enrollment, adapt to population shifts, and maintain high-quality learning environments for all students.

## Where will the Preschool go?

The Littlest Generals Preschool program will be relocated to **Parkview or Kean Elementary**, ensuring a smooth transition and continued early learning opportunities for our youngest students. This move aligns with the district's Facilities Master Plan, allowing us to enhance learning environments while maintaining the high-quality preschool experience families expect.

## Who do I contact with questions regarding the bond issue, facilities, and the Wooster City School District?

If you have any questions about the **May 2025 bond issue, the Facilities Master Plan, or Wooster City Schools**, please reach out to us:

**Email:** [info@woostercityschools.org](mailto:info@woostercityschools.org)

**Website:** [woostercityschools.org](https://www.woostercityschools.org)

**Follow us on social media** for updates and additional information.

We appreciate your engagement and are happy to provide the information you need to make an informed decision on May 6, 2025.