



ELOST Frequently Asked Questions

What Is ELOST?

ELOST stands for **Education Local Option Sales Tax**—a one-cent sales tax used to fund capital improvements for public schools. These funds help Oconee County Schools build and improve school facilities, purchase technology and equipment, and maintain safe transportation—without raising property taxes. By law, ELOST cannot be used for salaries or daily operational costs.

✔ Quick Facts About ELOST Renewal (November 5, 2025)

- **Not a new tax** — it's a continuation of an existing one-cent sales tax
- **No increase in the rate** — the current rate remains unchanged
- **Begins after the current ELOST ends**
- **Paid by everyone who shops locally** — including non-residents and visitors
- **Funds school renovations, campus improvements, safety, and upgrades**
- **Helps keep property taxes low**
- **Supports strong schools and thriving community**

✔ Why Renew ELOST Now?

The current ELOST will reach its funding cap by **Winter 2026**. Voting to renew in **November 2025** allows the one-cent sales tax to continue without interruption, ensuring the district can continue addressing aging buildings and student needs.

✔ How Long Will The New ELOST Last?

If approved, the new ELOST would:

- Take effect after the current one ends
- Remain in place for **five years**
- Continue collecting up to **\$86.8 million**

✔ What Will Be Funded?

- Improvements to existing schools
- Campus improvements
- Technology upgrades (Chromebooks, desktops, printers, system owned networks, etc.)
- Equipment, furnishings, school buses, and vehicles

✔ What About The \$12.1M In Bonds?

Voter approval also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the potential sale of up to \$12.1 million to fund building renovations, school campus improvements, technology upgrades, transportation, and school safety initiatives.