Oconee County Schools
ESPLOST VII

What is ESPLOST?



Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) is a 1% sales tax that can be used for the following school system costs:

- Building renovations
- Infrastructure
- Technology
- Transportation

What is ESPLOST?



- ESPLOST is a penny sales tax
- ESPLOST is NOT a property tax
- ESPLOST has been collected in Oconee County since 1998

Achievements





- Oconee County was chosen by Niche as the No. 1 county in the United States for public schools
- Oconee County Schools was ranked No. 1 by Niche in Georgia among county districts for the sixth straight year and for the 11th time overall
- Niche cited OCS on its Best Teachers and Best Places To Teach lists for Georgia

Achievements

- North Oconee and Oconee County named 2025-2026 Best High Schools by U.S. News & World Report
- Nine of the 400 nationwide schools chosen since 2003 as National Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools of Excellence are in Oconee County
- The OCS Class of 2024 achieved a 99.1% four-year graduation rate, including 100% among Special Education students





Recent ESPLOST projects



- Dove Creek Elementary School
- Dove Creek Middle School
- Chromebooks for all students
- Maintain our bus replacement cycle
- Instructional Support Center
- Additions at CFES, HSES, and MBES

Recent ESPLOST projects

- Renovations at OCPS, OCES, and RBES
- Technology upgrades
- District-wide generators
- Paving and lighting at OCHS



Facilities Snapshot



- 66 years between our oldest and newest school
- Average school is 31 years old
- 35 acres of roofing
- 500 acres of property
- 1.5 million square feet of conditioned space

Identification of ESPLOST Projects



- Feedback from principals
- Input from maintenance staff
- School walkthrough data
- GADOE eligibility of projects
- Collaboration with central office divisions

Proposed ESPLOST Projects: CFES

- Original building was built in 1956
- Additions were built in 1977, 1978, 1980, and 2023
- Address water issues in between two wings
- Resurface the activity court





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: DCES





- Built in 2018
- Address drainage and water issues on western playground

Proposed ESPLOST Projects: HSES

- Built in 2009
- Addition built in 2023
- Square off the cul de sac into a basketball court and add new asphalt





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: MBES





- Built in 1996
- Addition built in 2024
- Renovate the school for lights, floors, ceilings, and paint

Proposed ESPLOST Projects: OCES

- Built in 1968
- Additions built in 1978 and 1981
- Resurface lower play court
- Replace gutters





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: OCPS

- Built in 1987
- New HVAC
- Address water issues around the building





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: RBES

- Built in 2002
- Addition in 2009
- Resurface activity courts





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: DCMS

- Built in 2023
- No projects at this time



Proposed ESPLOST Projects: MBMS

- Built in 1997
- Additions in 2009 and 2017
- Replace exterior door hardware and door sweeps





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: OCMS

- Built in 1956
- 13 additions were built between 1971 and 2017
- Replacing:
  - Fire Alarm
  - Roof sections
  - Floor section
  - HVAC zones
- Sewer cleanouts





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: NOHS



- Built in 2004
- Renovate the school for lights, floors, ceilings, and paint
- Replace flat roof sections
- Replace weight room HVAC
- Water mitigation issues

Proposed ESPLOST Projects: NOHS

- Partner with athletic boosters to add video scoreboards to the stadium
- Convert existing two practice fields to turf and add lights
- Add a wrestling room and athletic storage
- Resurface tennis courts (8-year life)





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: OCHS



- Built in 1992
- Additions added in 2010 and 2020
- Replace the original roof on the building

Proposed ESPLOST Projects: OCHS

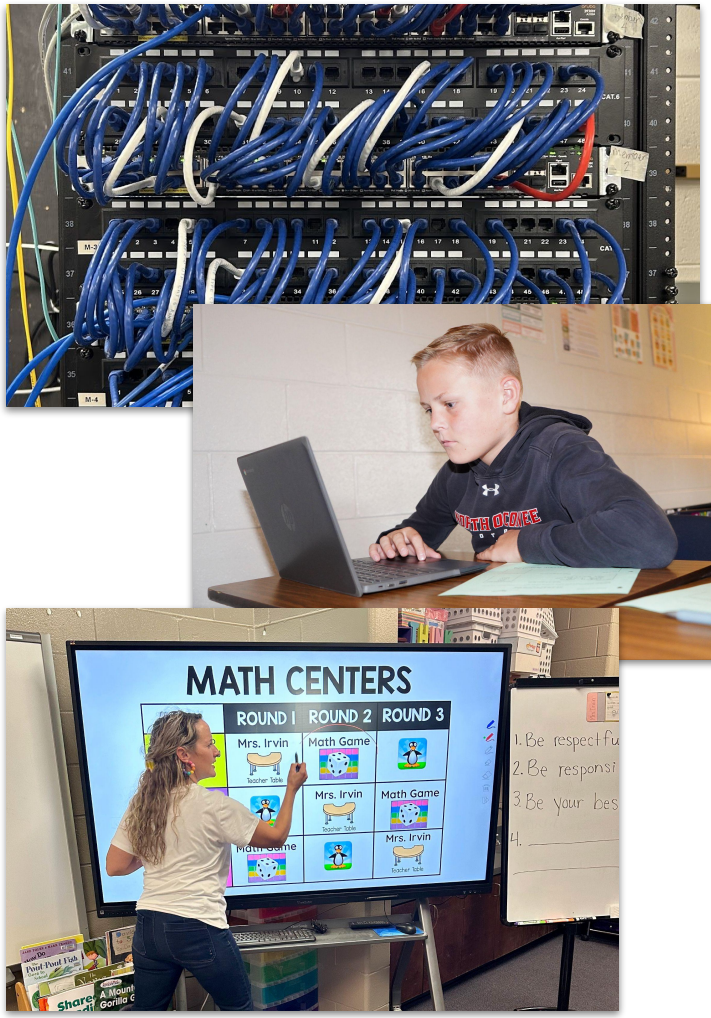
- Renovate the stadium press box
- Add an additional practice field with turf and add lights
- Add athletic storage and athletic changing rooms
- Extend current practice field, convert to turf, and add lights
- Partner with athletic boosters to add a video scoreboard to the stadium
- Resurface tennis courts (8-year life)





Proposed ESPLOST Projects: Technology

- Interactive panels for K-2
- Network equipment and Wi-Fi
- Servers
- Firewalls
- OCS-owned fiber replacement
- Chromebooks, laptops, desktops, printers, and projectors



Proposed ESPLOST Projects: Transportation

- Continue bus replacement cycle of 20 years

- Continue white fleet replacement cycle of 20 years or 200,000 miles





Impact



Building Projects Impact 11/12 Existing Schools

Bond Benefits

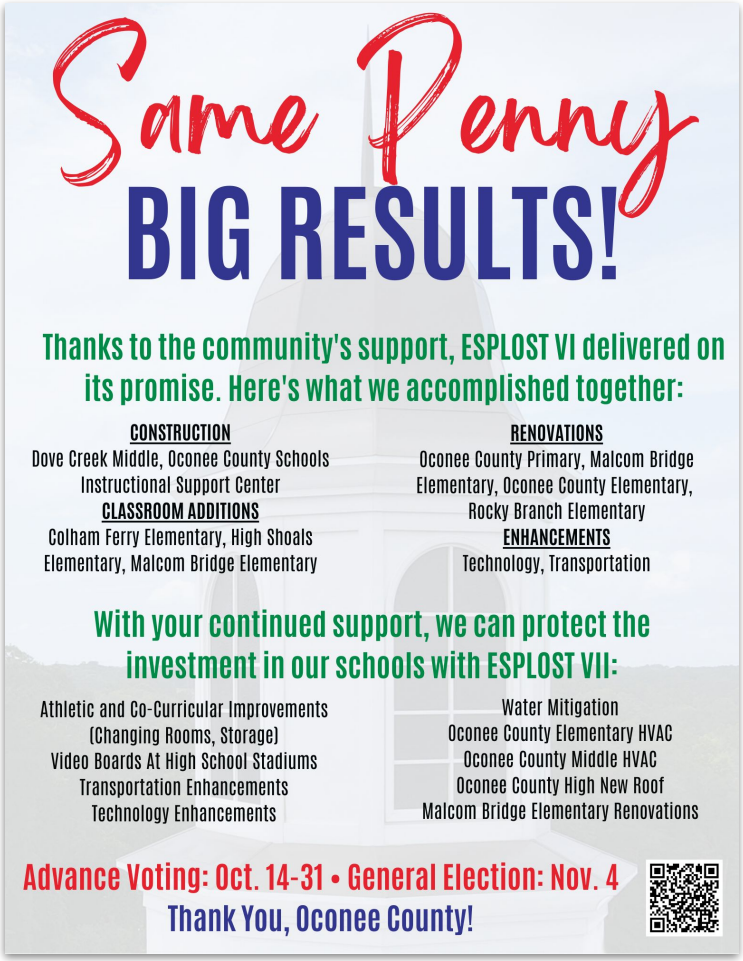


- If necessary, sell bonds for appropriate projects
- Begin projects immediately pending passage of ELOST VII
- Avoid inflation costs

ELOST VII Voting Dates

October 14-31, 2025
November 4, 2025

Flyer


Same Penny
BIG RESULTS!
Thanks to the community's support, ESPLOST VI delivered on its promise. Here's what we accomplished together:
CONSTRUCTION
Dove Creek Middle, Oconee County Schools Instructional Support Center
CLASSROOM ADDITIONS
Colham Ferry Elementary, High Shoals Elementary, Malcom Bridge Elementary
RENOVATIONS
Oconee County Primary, Malcom Bridge Elementary, Oconee County Elementary, Rocky Branch Elementary
ENHANCEMENTS
Technology, Transportation
With your continued support, we can protect the investment in our schools with ESPLOST VII:
Athletic and Co-Curricular Improvements (Changing Rooms, Storage)
Video Boards At High School Stadiums
Transportation Enhancements
Technology Enhancements
Water Mitigation
Oconee County Elementary HVAC
Oconee County Middle HVAC
Oconee County High New Roof
Malcom Bridge Elementary Renovations
Advance Voting: Oct. 14-31 • General Election: Nov. 4
Thank You, Oconee County!

FAQ

ESPLOST Frequently Asked Questions

What Is ESPLOST?

ESPLOST stands for **Education Special Purpose 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, ESPLOST cannot be used for salaries or daily operational costs.

✅ **Quick Facts About ESPLOST 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 ESPLOST 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 ESPLOST Now?**

The current ESPLOST 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 ESPLOST Last?**

If approved, the new ESPLOST 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.

Oconee County Schools
ESPLOST VII