

# North Plainfield Pulse

## District Highlights



### ZERO TAX IMPACT BOND REFERENDUM

### A PLAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS + SECURITY

### VOTE SEPTEMBER 16

#### REASONS FOR A REFERENDUM

- 1** A school district can sell bonds to finance large-scale projects, similar to the way a homeowner uses a home equity loan to replace a roof or air conditioner. Voter approval is required.
- 2** When bond funding is used, the State of New Jersey offers to pay a portion of the project costs. The state has committed to paying 56% of the proposed improvements.
  - That would reduce the local tax share by \$19.1 million.
- 3** **No Bond = Lose \$19.1 Million in State Aid**
- 4** Our buildings are well-maintained, but infrastructure updates can't be ignored -- especially when they lead to costly repairs, impact the security of our schools, or limit the instruction of our students.

#### A FINANCIAL STRATEGY OF TIMING + STATE AID

How is **ZERO TAX IMPACT** possible? Through careful timing and financial planning!

Debt payments from a previous school referendum will be paid off after 2026. The tax impact from the old debt and proposed new debt is about the same for a home assessed at North Plainfield's average (\$225,527).

The cost to the average home in 2024 was \$158/year, and the new tax impact would be \$145/year, actually resulting in a tax **decrease of \$12 a year LESS!**

**PROJECT COSTS**

**\$34M**

**STATE AID**

**-\$19.1M**

**LOCAL SHARE**

**\$14.9M**  
**ZERO TAX IMPACT**

We approach each day with the goal of *Unlocking Potential and Creating Impact*. To accomplish that, we must provide North Plainfield students with schools that are secure, learning spaces that are designed for modern instruction, and an operating budget that is strong and stable.

The **September 16 ZERO TAX IMPACT bond referendum** asks residents to consider investing \$34 million for large-scale improvements in our schools. Of that amount, \$19.1 million would come from state funding, not local taxes.

From security features and heating/cooling upgrades to science labs and a media center, North Plainfield School District would gain significant upgrades.

Importantly, all of these improvements would be paid for within the existing tax rate for school debt: **ZERO TAX IMPACT**.

#### PASS VS. FAIL

##### Pass:

- Bring \$19.1 million in state money back to North Plainfield
- Finish adding security vestibules to all schools
- Gain more efficient climate control at East End and West End
- Science labs evolve at the Middle School and High School
- Ramps, seating, etc., improve accessibility
- Upgrade to a Culinary Arts Program
- Replace old debt with new investment: **ZERO TAX IMPACT**

##### Fail:

- Lose \$19.1 million in state aid
- Four more security vestibules take years to fund
- Repair-prone HVAC strains the budget
- Science lab limitation, not able to offer AP Chemistry
- Accessibility remains limited
- Home Ec stays in the 1970s era
- Old windows will continue wasting energy



Go to [www.nplainfield.org/vote](http://www.nplainfield.org/vote) or scan to learn more, including pictures, videos and FAQs

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33 Mountain Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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**VIEW PROJECT DETAILS INSIDE!**

## PROJECT DETAILS

Proposed improvements would make a positive impact at almost every school. As the most recently updated school, Somerset School does not need major improvements. The referendum plan considers needs at the other five schools.

### Improved Instructional Spaces

#### Science Labs are Limiting

Science labs at the middle and high schools are more than outdated; some equipment is non-functional as age has taken its toll. Many sinks are not usable. Technology to support experimentation is lacking. Rooms were not designed to support the hands-on, inquiry-based approach that is central to modern laboratory science and experimentation. Equipment and design shortcomings prevent the instruction of higher-level courses like Advanced Placement Chemistry.

Renovations would include new equipment and furnishings. New ceilings, flooring, light fixtures, cabinets and HVAC would bring those labs into the modern era. The new layout would be more flexible for both the students and teachers, and it would meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

#### NPHS Media Center Could Transform

The high school Media Center is primarily dedicated to book storage, limiting its potential. This space could be home to programs such as Digital Arts or Broadcast Journalism, and activities like that require more open space.

Reimagine the Media Center with a new, flexible layout with an open floor plan and one classroom available for general use. That would allow more courses in this academic area, while continuing to showcase books. It would include a TV studio with broadcasting capabilities, editing booths, control rooms and storage rooms. For maximum flexibility, the new Media Center would have a College & Careers Center to help students explore their future paths. With a new ceiling, light fixtures, flooring, wall treatments and HVAC.

#### Setting the Stage for Community Access

The stage would be enlarged, and a new curtain would be installed. Tattered seating would be replaced, and that would include options for people who use wheelchairs, scooters and rolling walkers. A new ceiling, flooring and light fixtures would give this community asset a much-needed facelift. Along newly painted walls, new panels would enhance the room's acoustics, helping students sound even better during performances.

#### Culinary Arts Program Could Prepare Students for Future Careers

What we now call the Home Ec room poses several safety concerns due to outdated infrastructure and limited space. Broken cabinets, drawers, and appliances—some nearly 50 years old—create hazards in a space that is already too small to safely accommodate students. A redesign would prioritize safety by incorporating a series of multi-function stations to reduce congestion, as well as essential upgrades like fire-suppression cooking hoods, new HVAC systems, and new lighting, cabinets, and flooring. The new design and equipment would allow students to access a Culinary Arts program similar to their peers in other New Jersey high schools.

#### Outdated Locker Rooms Need Updates for Health + Security

The high school's locker rooms are used daily for required Physical Education courses and athletics. The tiles, the floor, the plumbing and the actual lockers have not been updated in 34 years. Showers are no longer operational. More than a cosmetic concern, the boys and girls locker rooms were designed with tall columns of lockers in the middle of the space. Today those are recognized as barriers to a security sightline.



**No Bond =  
Lose \$19.1 Million in State Aid**  
**— — — STATE AID is a BONUS!**

### Security, Efficiency & Equity

#### Vestibules + Other Security Layers

Two-stage vestibules are the standard in school security, letting a person come into an enclosed entryway for screening before gaining access to the entire school. The middle school and Somerset School have them. For equity, the referendum proposes building them at all three elementary schools and the high school.

Also, at the high school, the interior could be redesigned to improve security. Reconfiguring the office's open floor plan would create more offices from the same square footage, optimizing student engagement and traffic flow while appropriately restricting wide access.

#### From Repair-Prone to Peak Efficiency HVAC

NPSD used federal, pandemic-related funding to replace systems for HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) in three schools. The newer system at Somerset Intermediate does not need to be replaced at this time.

The systems at East End and West End are 30 to 40 years old, and upgrades would help the district move away from a repair-as-we-go existence to more stability for the everyday operating budget.



A comprehensive, electronically controlled HVAC system would eliminate the use of window air conditioning units. They were bought in the COVID era, but those kinds of units aren't meant to last much more than five years.

#### Window Replacements Would Finish a Job

Windows and doors are integral to security and climate control. NPSD has been using the operating budget to replace doors in all schools. Windows are part of the referendum plan.

At the middle and high schools, most windows are 25 years old. These older windows don't make an efficient barrier between the climate-controlled interior and the weather whims outside, leading to energy loss and condensation build-up. Despite repairs about five years ago, many old windows don't function well.

## VOTER INFORMATION

One vote can make a difference in the North Plainfield School District's bond referendum.

**If you are a registered voter, make sure to cast your ballot by mail in advance, or at the polls on Tuesday, September 16**

### Vote By Mail

Apply to Vote By Mail. To request a Vote By Mail ballot, download the application in English or Spanish. **The county must receive your application by September 9 to mail you a ballot, or by 3 p.m. on Monday, September 15, if you plan to obtain your ballot in person.**

Mail your ballot by the day of the election! All mailed ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday, September 16. You can also hand-deliver your mail-in ballot by dropping it in an official drop box.

For more information, visit the Somerset County Website. Please note: Mail-in ballots cannot be submitted at polling places.

### What Is a Provisional Ballot?

Ask for a **PROVISIONAL BALLOT** if you are told you can't cast a regular ballot for any reason at the polls.

Voters occasionally show up at the polls unaware that a Vote By Mail ballot was already sent to them. That's one of the more common reasons a voter may need to fill out a "provisional" ballot - this ensures the integrity of the election while also preserving legitimate votes. These ballots are reviewed after polls close, and paperwork can be examined more closely. Valid votes will be counted if they are not duplicates.

## JOIN THE NPSD TEAM!

### Current Openings

- Somerset School Spanish Bilingual ELA
- Elementary School Spanish Dual Language Teachers
- High School Special Education
- Middle School STEM Teacher
- Special Education Leave Replacement Positions

View all open positions and apply today at [www.nplainfield.org/jobs](http://www.nplainfield.org/jobs)



### North Plainfield Fall Festival

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**

**North Plainfield High School 11am – 4pm**  
*Rain or Shine*

Food – Vendors – Community Groups Inflatables – Entertainment –  
Color Run Car Nutz Car Show from 9 am – 2 pm

*proceeds benefit our*



**NORTH PLAINFIELD**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
ACADEMICS. ATHLETICS. ADVOCACY

For more information visit [npfallfestival.org](http://npfallfestival.org)



## WHAT IS THE 21 CENTURY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM?

### A **FREE** Program That Goes Beyond Homework Help

The 21st Century Program isn't just aftercare – it's an enrichment experience that builds community and supports your child academically, socially and creatively.

- ✓ Free daily program - 5 days/week until 6:00pm (no half days)
- ✓ Runs from September 8, 2025 - June 12, 2026 for 3 , 4 , 5 , 6 graders
- ✓ Students can still join other school clubs and stay in 21 Century!
- ✓ Healthy snacks served every day

### What Can You Expect This Year?

- Hands-on science experiments
- Exciting new coding projects
- Creative art and DIY activities
- Gym and outdoor play
- Fun Fridays with movie hours and game
- Homework help built into the schedule
- Guest visits from the Liberty Science Center



**REGISTER TODAY IN GENESIS!**

# EN ESPAÑOL

## REFERÉNDUM DE IMPACTO FISCAL CERO

### Vote el 16 de Septiembre

Abordamos cada día con el objetivo de Liberar el Potencial y Crear Impacto. Para lograrlo, debemos brindar a los estudiantes de North Plainfield escuelas seguras, espacios de aprendizaje diseñados para una enseñanza moderna y un presupuesto operativo sólido y estable.

El referéndum de bonos del 16 de septiembre solicita a los residentes que consideren invertir \$34 millones en mejoras a gran escala en nuestras escuelas. De esa cantidad, \$19.1 millones provendrían de fondos estatales, no de impuestos locales.

Desde medidas de seguridad y mejoras en la calefacción y refrigeración hasta laboratorios de ciencias y un centro multimedia, el Distrito Escolar de North Plainfield se beneficiaría de mejoras significativas.

Es importante destacar que todas estas mejoras se financiarían con la tasa impositiva actual para la deuda escolar: Impacto Fiscal Cero.

## Razones Para Un Referéndum

1. Un distrito escolar puede vender bonos para financiar proyectos a gran escala, de forma similar a cómo un propietario utiliza un préstamo con garantía hipotecaria para reemplazar un techo o un aire acondicionado. Se requiere la aprobación de los votantes.
2. Cuando se utilizan bonos, el estado de Nueva Jersey ofrece cubrir una parte de los costos del proyecto. El estado se ha comprometido a cubrir el 56 % de las mejoras propuestas.
  - a. Esto reduciría la cuota impositiva local en 19,1 millones de dólares.
3. Sin bono = se pierden \$19,1 millones en ayuda estatal
4. Nuestros edificios están bien mantenidos, pero las actualizaciones de infraestructura no se pueden ignorar, especialmente cuando conducen a reparaciones costosas, afectan la seguridad de nuestras escuelas o limitan la instrucción de nuestros estudiantes.

## Una estrategia financiera de timing + ayudas estatales

<b>COSTOS DEL PROYECTO</b>	<b>\$34M</b>
<b>AYUDA ESTATAL</b>	<b>-\$19.1M</b>
<b>PARTICIPACIÓN LOCAL</b>	<b>\$14.9M</b>
	<b>IMPACTO FISCAL CERO</b>

## Detalles del Proyecto

**Los laboratorios científicos son limitados:** Los laboratorios de ciencias de las escuelas secundarias y preparatorias están más que obsoletos; algunos equipos no funcionan debido al paso del tiempo. Muchos lavabos no se pueden usar. Falta tecnología para la experimentación. Las aulas no fueron diseñadas para apoyar el enfoque práctico e indagatorio, fundamental para la ciencia y la experimentación de laboratorio modernas. Las deficiencias en el equipo y el diseño impiden la impartición de cursos de nivel superior como Química de Colocación Avanzada.

Las renovaciones incluirían nuevo equipo y mobiliario. Techos, pisos, lámparas, gabinetes y sistemas de climatización nuevos modernizarían estos laboratorios. La nueva distribución sería más flexible tanto para estudiantes como para docentes y cumpliría con las directrices de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA).

**El Centro de Medios de NPHS Podría Transformarse:** El Centro de Medios de la escuela preparatoria se dedica principalmente al almacenamiento de libros, lo que limita su potencial. Este espacio podría albergar programas como Artes Digitales o Periodismo Audiovisual, actividades que requieren un espacio más abierto.

Reimaginar el Centro de Medios con una nueva distribución flexible, con un plano de planta abierto y un aula disponible para uso general. Esto permitiría impartir más cursos en esta área académica, a la vez que se seguiría exhibiendo libros. Incluiría un estudio de televisión con capacidad para transmisión, cabinas de edición, salas de control y almacenes. Para una máxima flexibilidad, el nuevo Centro de Medios contaría con un Centro Universitario y Profesional para ayudar a los estudiantes a explorar sus futuros caminos. Con un nuevo techo, nuevas luminarias, pisos, revestimientos de paredes y sistema de climatización.

**Preparando el escenario para el acceso comunitario:** Se ampliaría el escenario y se instalaría un nuevo telón. Se reemplazarían los asientos deteriorados, incluyendo opciones para personas en silla de ruedas, scooters y andadores. Un nuevo techo, suelo e iluminación renovarían este espacio comunitario, una renovación muy necesaria. A lo largo de las paredes recién pintadas, se instalarían nuevos paneles que mejorarían la acústica de la sala, lo que ayudaría a los estudiantes a escuchar mejor durante las presentaciones.

**El Programa de Artes Culinarias Podría Preparar a los Estudiantes para Futuras Carreras:** Lo que ahora llamamos el aula de Economía Doméstica plantea varios problemas de seguridad debido a la infraestructura obsoleta y el espacio limitado. Armarios, cajones y electrodomésticos rotos, algunos con casi 50 años de antigüedad, crean peligros en un espacio que ya es demasiado pequeño para albergar a los estudiantes de forma segura. Un rediseño priorizaría

la seguridad al incorporar una serie de estaciones multifuncionales para reducir la congestión, así como mejoras esenciales como campanas extractoras de cocina con supresión de incendios, nuevos sistemas de climatización (HVAC), iluminación, armarios y suelos nuevos. El nuevo diseño y el nuevo equipamiento permitirían a los estudiantes acceder a un programa de Artes Culinarias similar al de sus compañeros de otras escuelas secundarias de Nueva Jersey.

**Vestuarios obsoletos que necesitan mejoras por razones de salud y seguridad:** Los vestuarios del instituto se utilizan a diario para las clases obligatorias de Educación Física y atletismo. Los azulejos, el suelo, la plomería y las taquillas no se han actualizado en 34 años. Las duchas ya no funcionan. Más que una preocupación estética, los vestuarios de chicos y chicas se diseñaron con altas columnas de taquillas en el centro. Hoy en día, estas se consideran barreras visuales para la seguridad.

**Vestíbulos + Otras Capas de Seguridad:** Los vestíbulos de dos niveles son el estándar en seguridad escolar, permitiendo que una persona entre a una entrada cerrada para ser revisada antes de acceder a toda la escuela. La escuela secundaria y la escuela Somerset cuentan con ellos. Para mayor equidad, el referéndum propone construirlos en las tres escuelas primarias y la preparatoria.

Además, en la preparatoria, se podría rediseñar el interior para mejorar la seguridad. Reconfigurar la planta abierta de las oficinas crearía más oficinas en la misma superficie, optimizando la participación de los estudiantes y el flujo de tráfico, a la vez que se restringe adecuadamente el acceso amplio.

**De sistemas de climatización propensos a reparaciones a sistemas de máxima eficiencia:** El NPSD utilizó fondos federales relacionados con la pandemia para reemplazar los sistemas de climatización (calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado) en tres escuelas. El sistema más nuevo de la Escuela Intermedia Somerset no necesita reemplazo por el momento.

Los sistemas de East End y West End tienen entre 30 y 40 años, y las mejoras ayudarían al distrito a dejar atrás la rutina de reparaciones y lograr una mayor estabilidad en el presupuesto operativo diario.

**Si usted es un votante registrado, asegúrese de emitir su voto por correo con anticipación o en las urnas el martes 16 de septiembre.**

**Obtenga más información en [www.nplainfield.org/vote](http://www.nplainfield.org/vote)**

<p style="text-align: right;">September 2025</p>  <p>North Plainfield School District • 33 Mountain Ave • North Plainfield, NJ • 07060</p>	<p><b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mark Kruszczynski <i>President</i></td> <td>Amnet Ramos-Hernandez <i>Vice President</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carlie Dougherty</td> <td>Michael Giordano</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monique Jarvis</td> <td>Thomas Jones, Jr.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Michelle Aquino, Ed.D, <i>Superintendent</i></td> </tr> </table>	Mark Kruszczynski <i>President</i>	Amnet Ramos-Hernandez <i>Vice President</i>	Carlie Dougherty	Michael Giordano	Monique Jarvis	Thomas Jones, Jr.	Michelle Aquino, Ed.D, <i>Superintendent</i>	
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