



NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 4, 2025 BALLOT ISSUE 19

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT?

On November 4, 2025, voters will consider a combined 6.2-mill bond issue and 1.0-mill permanent improvement levy. This single ballot issue supports a district-wide facility master plan that was shaped by months of community engagement, including public meetings, surveys, and school building tours.

WHAT WOULD THE FUNDS BE USED FOR?

Bond Issue (6.2 mills) funds would support:

- Construction of a new PreK–6 elementary school at the South Elementary site
- Construction of a new 7–12 middle/high school at the current high school site
- Demolition of all existing elementary and middle/high school buildings
- Design and construction of both new schools at the same time
- Permanent Improvement Levy (1.0 mill) would provide dedicated funding for long-term maintenance and repair of school facilities

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL IMPACT FOR PROPERTY OWNERS?

- \$252 per year for every \$100,000 of assessed property value
 - \$217 for the bond issue
 - \$35 for the permanent improvement levy

WHY NOW?

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) has approved New Philadelphia's master facilities plan, making the district eligible for \$80 million in state co-funding, which represents approximately 55% of the total \$145.5 million project cost. In order to access these state dollars, the district must secure its local share of funding within a 16-month window that begins in July 2025.

HOW DOES STATE CO-FUNDING WORK FOR THIS PROJECT?

In July 2025, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) approved New Philadelphia's facility master plan, making the district eligible for approximately \$80 million in state co-funding through the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP). This funding represents roughly 55% of the total estimated \$145.5 million project cost. New Philadelphia was one of only four districts in Ohio selected during this cycle—and received the largest funding allocation. In order to access these state dollars, the district must secure its local share of funding within a 16-month window that begins in July 2025.

If the local share is approved through the combined bond issue and permanent improvement levy on November 4, 2025, the district would be able to:

- Access the \$80 million in state funds
- Simultaneously replace the current elementary and middle/high school facilities with new PreK–6 and 7–12 buildings

This co-funding opportunity allows the district to pursue two new schools at a significantly reduced local cost—essentially enabling the district to fund both buildings with the local cost of just one.



WHAT IS THE EXPECTED TRAFFIC IMPACT AT THE SOUTH ELEMENTARY SITE?

A traffic impact study was conducted to evaluate how building a new PK–6 elementary school at the South Elementary site would affect local traffic. The study confirmed that traffic volumes in the area are expected to increase. However, the study also identified two key intersections where improvements would help maintain safe and efficient traffic flow.

Compact roundabouts are recommended at:

- S. Broadway and Providence Dr SW
- S. Broadway and Springbrook Dr SW

Funding for these upgrades is included in the proposed Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) project budget. In addition, the City of New Philadelphia Administration has committed to partnering with the district to address any traffic and logistical challenges associated with construction.

HOW DOES BALLOT ISSUE 19 ALIGN WITH THE DISTRICT'S STRATEGIC PLAN?

The New Philadelphia City Schools Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board of Education on January 10, 2023, sets priorities for the district through 2026. It was developed with input from students, families, staff, and community members. Goal 1 of the plan focuses on strengthening Facilities, Finance, and Transportation operations. The Master Facilities Planning Process—and the resulting November 2025 ballot issue—are key strategies the district is using to advance this goal.

The plan outlines a commitment to:

- Long-term financial responsibility
- Safe, modern, and efficient learning environments
- Transparent communication with the public

Updates on Strategic Plan progress are available at npschools.org/strategicplan.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLANNING PROJECT?

The Master Planning Project evaluates the district's long-term facility needs. It helps determine:

- Building configurations and grade alignment
- Maintenance priorities and life cycle costs
- Long-range capital investment needs

The district currently operates seven instructional buildings and an administrative site:

- High School & Welty Middle School (Grades 6–12)
- Central (Grade 5)
- East (PreK–1)
- South (Grades 2–3)
- West (PreK, Grade 4)
- York (Grade 1)
- Front Street (District Offices)

As buildings age, many systems reach the end of their life cycles, and repairs are no longer viable. Planning exercises allow the district to evaluate its goals and facilities to identify educational priorities, cost-effective maintenance plans, and safety and accessibility concerns.

HOW OLD ARE NEW PHILADELPHIA'S SCHOOL BUILDINGS?

While the maintenance department has taken exceptional care of the buildings in the district, many of them have reached the end of their life cycle. The average age of facilities in the district is 80 years old and do not support educational techniques used today.

- New Philadelphia High School – Built in 1913, with additions in 1925, 1958, 1962, and 1993
- Welty Middle School – Built in 1913, with additions in 1925, 1958, 1962, and 1993
- Central Elementary – Built in 1941, addition in 1957
- York Elementary – Built in 1941, addition in 1960
- West Elementary – Built in 1955, addition in 1960
- East Elementary – Built in 1952, additions in 1956 and 1976
- South Elementary – Built in 1974



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS?

Building-specific fact sheets are available online. These include:

- Original construction and addition years
- Classroom sizes and configurations
- Mechanical systems (HVAC, plumbing, electrical)
- Accessibility and safety features
- Details on maintenance, infrastructure, and layout

You can view or download these fact sheets at npschools.org/facilities

If you would like a printed copy or want to schedule a tour of any district building, call the district office at 330-364-0600.

WHAT NOTABLE REPAIR COSTS ARE ANTICIPATED FOR NEW PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL BUILDINGS?

Several of our instructional buildings have anticipated repair needs in the near future. Five school roofs need replacement at an estimated cost of at least \$2.5 million. In addition, there is a crack in a clay pipe beneath Welty Middle School. If the pipe breaks, it could require digging into the first-floor structure for repairs, resulting in disruption to the building and additional expense.

WHY DOES THE DISTRICT USE MODULAR CLASSROOMS, AND WHAT IS THEIR CONDITION?

Modular classrooms are used across the district to provide additional space for students. Currently, nine modulares are in need of replacement. The estimated cost is \$120,000 for a used unit or \$250,000 for a new unit. If all nine modulares were replaced with used units, the total cost would be about \$1,080,000. While modulares help address immediate space needs, they also present considerations such as maintenance, exposure to weather when students move between buildings, and security.

WHAT FEATURES ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED NEW FACILITIES?

The proposed school buildings would be designed and building according to the Ohio School Design Manual (OSDM), which includes OFCC guidelines for K–12 school design. Features supported by these guidelines include:

- Controlled vestibule entry systems with clear visitor flow and designated entrances, reinforced by site design elements, landscaping, and signage aligned with OFCC security design standards.
- Layered access control and perimeter security measures such as fencing, bollards, natural surveillance design (CPTED), and monitored gates where appropriate.
- Video surveillance infrastructure, including fixed and wide-dynamic range cameras, infrared lighting options, two-way emergency communication stations, and mass notification systems.
- Educational and support spaces planned per OFCC space-plate requirements—modern classroom layouts, flexible group spaces (e.g., breakout rooms), student services, and special education areas configured according to OSDM guidance.
- Integration of design best practices for sustainable and healthy learning environments, including LEED Silver standards for energy efficiency, air quality, and environmental comfort

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE EXISTING ATHLETIC AND MUSIC WINGS AT THE CURRENT MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL SITE?

Based on community input gathered during the master planning process, the proposed plan includes retaining the existing athletic and music wings at the current middle/high school site. These areas would be integrated into the new grades 7–12 facility.

WILL STUDENTS BE DISPLACED DURING CONSTRUCTION?

No. Students would continue attending their current school buildings during the construction phase. The proposed plan calls for facilities to be built on sites that can accommodate construction to take place while existing schools remain operational. Once the new buildings are completed and ready for occupancy, students would transition into the new spaces. The existing buildings would then be vacated and demolished.



WHAT WILL THE BALLOT LANGUAGE SAY?

Shall the New Philadelphia City School District be authorized to do the following:

1. Issue bonds for the purpose of constructing, furnishing and equipping School District buildings and facilities, including the construction of a new elementary school and a new middle/high school, renovating, rehabilitating, remodeling, constructing, adding to, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving other School District buildings and facilities, acquiring, clearing, equipping and otherwise improving sites for those School District buildings and facilities, and demolishing existing buildings and facilities in the principal amount of \$72,000,000, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of 37 years, and levy a property tax outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the bond repayment period 6.2 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$217 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s appraised value, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?
2. Levy an additional property tax to provide funds for the acquisition, construction, enlargement, renovation, and financing of general permanent improvements that the county auditor estimates will collect \$632,948 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1.0 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$35 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s appraised value, for a continuing period of time?

	FOR THE BOND ISSUE AND LEVY
	AGAINST THE BOND ISSUE AND LEVY

ARE THERE DESIGNS FOR THE NEW BUILDINGS?

In Ohio, the school district must first secure local funding and hire an architect before beginning the official design process. So while the design process hasn’t begun for the new schools, initial conversations and ideas have been developed for how the new schools could look. Once the design process begins, then comprehensive rounds of district and community engagement can take place, ensuring a variety of input on the final design.

Here is a conceptual rendering as an idea of how a new PK-6 building could look. This is not a final design.





Here is a conceptual rendering of how the new middle/high school could look. This is not a final design.





WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BALLOT ISSUE DOES NOT PASS

- The proposed new school construction would not move forward.
- Existing school buildings would remain in operation.
- Modular classrooms would continue to be used, with nine units in need of replacement. Replacing them is estimated to cost \$120,000 for a used unit or \$250,000 for a new unit, totaling about \$1,080,000 if replaced with used units.
- Five school roofs will need to be replaced in the next few years at an anticipated cost of at least \$2.5 million.
- Mechanical systems in current buildings would continue to age and may require future repairs or replacement.
- The district will lose access to approximately \$80 million in OFCC co-funding after the 16-month eligibility period beginning July 2025 expires.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BALLOT ISSUE?

Information about the November 4, 2025 combined bond issue and permanent improvement levy is available on the district's website and through public engagement opportunities.

To learn more, you can:

- Visit npschools.org/facilities
- Attend upcoming school board meetings or community information sessions
- Call the district office at 330-364-0600 with questions
- Request a printed copy of ballot-related information or schedule a building tour