



OCONEE COUNTY SCHOOLS EXPLOST 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 7th straight year and for the 12th 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 2025 achieved a 99.7% four-year graduation rate, including 98.6% 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
- Re-turf the stadium
- Build an auxiliary gym
- 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



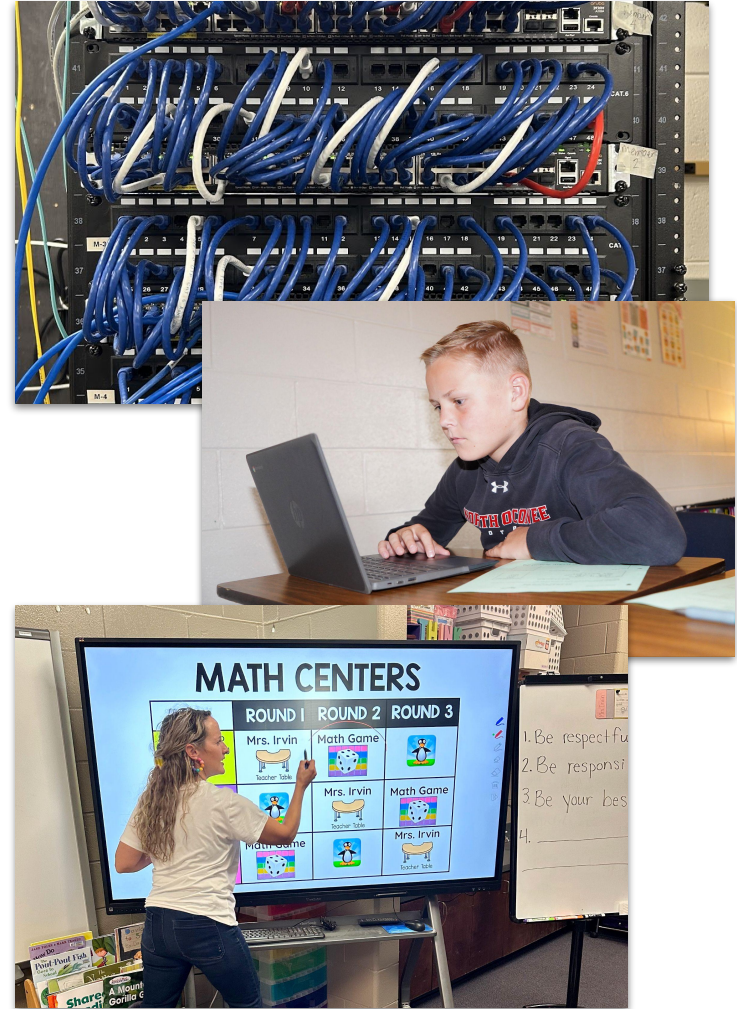
Proposed ESPLOST Projects: OCHS

- Renovate the stadium press box
- Turf the practice field near student parking
- Add athletic storage and athletic changing rooms
- Extend current practice field 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

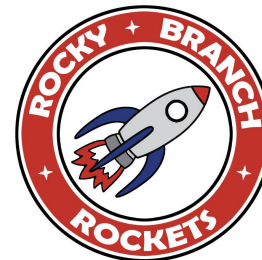
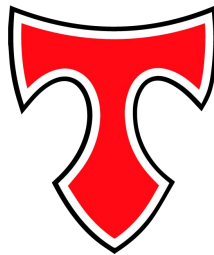


Proposed ESPLOST Projects: Transportation

- 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 ESPLOST VII
- Avoid inflation costs



Vote Date

ESPLOST VII Voting Dates

October 14-31, 2025

November 4, 2025



**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	RENOVATIONS Oconee County Primary, Malcom Bridge Elementary, Oconee County Elementary, Rocky Branch Elementary
CLASSROOM ADDITIONS Colham Ferry Elementary, High Shoals Elementary, Malcom Bridge 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
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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.





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