

# WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent of Schools

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February 20, 2026

Dear Alumni Families of the West Essex Regional School District,

As Superintendent of Schools since 2019 and a member of the West Essex Regional School District since 2008, I am reaching out to alumni families whose children graduated from our district to share information about an upcoming referendum and to invite you to remain connected to our school community through future communications.

As you know, the four communities of Essex Fells, Fairfield, North Caldwell, and Roseland come together to form one regional school district serving students in grades 7-12. Although your children have graduated, you remain valued members of our community and stakeholders in the district's future. In keeping with our commitment to open communication and transparency, I am writing to share an update on our referendum planning and to offer you the opportunity to remain informed as the process moves forward.

Over the past several months, our Board of Education and district administration have been actively engaged in the referendum planning process. Our district has shared multiple communications with our regional school community outlining progress and next steps. Below is a summary of those updates, including recent developments from January and February 2026.

## **Summary of Referendum Communications and Updates**

### **August 2025:**

The Board of Education announced the need to pursue a referendum to address critical facility needs at both the middle and high schools. An architectural firm began conducting a comprehensive assessment of our buildings and campus, with an emphasis on responsible planning and long-term educational needs.

### **September 2025:**

A referendum update was presented at the September Board meeting. The district continued its collaboration with the architect to review conditions, some dating back to the original construction, and initiated a comprehensive demographic study to analyze enrollment patterns, population trends, and housing growth. Work also began with the district's bond company to evaluate cost scenarios and taxpayer impact. A [Referendum Information Page](#) and access to [Board meeting](#) information were made available to support community engagement.

### **October 2025:**

The district shared additional details regarding prioritized facility needs. Plans under consideration included instructional space renovations, improvements to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, including expanded HVAC installations at the middle school, enhanced safety and security measures, and

upgrades to outdoor facilities supporting physical education, athletics, and the arts. The demographic study results are expected to guide long-term planning. The Board noted that November 2026 is the most likely referendum date, as it carries no additional cost to the district.

**November 2025:**

The Board completed in-depth walkthroughs of both schools and outdoor spaces. Needs were categorized as low, medium, or high priority. Areas under review included door and hardware replacements, window upgrades, media center renovations, HVAC improvements, and enhancements to outdoor fields.

**January 2026:**

As the new year began, the Board of Education and district administration continued working with professional partners to evaluate facility needs across the district. The planning process included building evaluations, site visits, and review of safety, instructional spaces, infrastructure, and long-term planning priorities. The district remained in the information-gathering and planning phase, and no final decisions were made. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and ongoing communication with the community.

To further support community understanding, the district released a set of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) related to school referendums and the district's planning efforts. These resources were created to answer common questions about the referendum process, project priorities, and ways community members can stay informed and engaged.

**February 2026:**

The Board of Education continued advancing the referendum during a public meeting that included a presentation from BWS Architects outlining the proposed scope of work, project timeline, estimated costs, and structure of the referendum voting questions. The Board also reviewed next steps in the process, including a scheduled vote on February 19, 2026, to submit the project application to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

On February 19, the Board approved for the district to submit project applications for state review, which is a prerequisite to a bond referendum. By the end of the spring, the district expects to hear back from the state with a determination on state aid, a motivating factor to hold a bond referendum.

**Invitation to Join Future Communications**

We recognize that alumni families remain important members of our community. As taxpayers, residents, and continued supporters of our schools, your awareness and engagement remain valuable.

Alumni families are invited to receive future referendum updates from the West Essex Regional School District. Please complete the brief [Referendum Communication Form](#) to be added to our contact list.

In addition to direct communications, we encourage alumni families to stay informed through a variety of district communication channels, including:

- [Board of Education](#) meetings
- Regular updates posted on the [district website](#)
- The district's [Referendum Information Page](#)

- District social media platforms, including [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
- [Public presentations](#) and community information sessions

We value our relationship with alumni families and believe keeping our community informed supports thoughtful planning and a shared understanding of our schools' needs.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [dmacioci@westex.org](mailto:dmacioci@westex.org)

Thank you for your continued connection and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dam Macioci".

Damion Macioci, Superintendent of Schools