



Ballot Issue Frequently Asked Questions

MAY 2026

What is on the Ballot?

On May 5, 2026, voters in the New Philadelphia City Schools district will be asked to consider a 1.5% School District Earned Income Tax.

Why is the district proposing a School District Earned Income Tax?

Through community feedback, the district heard concerns about affordability, rising property taxes, traffic congestion, and the need for safer, more efficient school buildings. The May 2026 proposal reflects those concerns and presents a different funding approach than previous ballot issues.

What income would be subject to the 1.5% earned income tax?

The proposed tax would apply only to earned income. It would not apply to:

- Retirement income, including Social Security or pensions
- Unemployment benefits
- Interest, dividends, or capital gains

The tax would apply to residents of the New Philadelphia City Schools district. It would not apply to non-residents who work in the district.

When would the earned income tax begin?

If approved by voters, the collection of the earned income tax would begin in 2027.

Is there a property tax component to this ballot issue?

No. The May 2026 ballot issue is for a 1.5% School District Earned Income Tax only. The district plans to take an additional step to reduce property taxes by 0.5 mills when earned income tax collections begin.

Why is the proposed school site located on land outside of town?

The proposed location east of town was selected to reduce traffic congestion compared with the previously proposed in-town building plan. The site also supports a more centralized and efficient one-campus design.

What would funding from the May 2026 ballot issue provide?

If approved, funding would allow the district to:

- Construct a new PreK–6 elementary school and a new 7–12 middle/high school on land east of town near the intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and State Route 39. The property would only be purchased if the issue passes.
- Qualify for approximately \$80 million in state co-funding through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) on a nearly \$170 million project.
- Implement a more efficient one-campus solution, including:
 - Shared specialized staffing across buildings
 - Centralized services such as food service, maintenance, technology, and transportation
 - Enhanced safety through a single, more secure site

Are there any limitations on the timing of the opportunity to purchase the identified land for the new school campus?

The land identified for the proposed new school campus — located east of New Philadelphia near the intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and State Route 39 — is currently available to New Philadelphia City Schools, but the opportunity is time-limited.

If the May 2026 ballot issue is approved, the district would have the funding necessary to move forward with purchasing this specific property as part of its facilities plan. If the ballot issue does not pass, the district would not have the funding to proceed with the purchase, and the landowner has indicated they would seek other buyers.

What is the estimated earned income tax impact?

Annual Taxable Income	Annual Tax	Monthly Impact
\$50,000	\$750	\$62.50
\$100,000	\$1,500	\$125.00
\$150,000	\$2,250	\$187.50
\$200,000	\$3,000	\$250.00
\$250,000	\$3,750	\$312.50
\$300,000	\$4,500	\$375.00
\$350,000	\$5,250	\$437.50

How does state co-funding factor into this plan?

If the local funding is approved on May 5, the district would qualify for approximately \$80 million in state co-funding through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. This funding supports the overall project cost and is tied to the district securing its local share.

How would the May 2026 ballot issue affect a senior citizen or resident with no earned income?

For a senior citizen or other resident who does not have earned income, the proposed 1.5% School District Earned Income Tax would not apply because the tax applies only to earned income, such as wages and salaries. Retirement income — including Social Security, pensions, interest, dividends, and capital gains — is not subject to the tax.

If the ballot issue passes, the district also plans to take an additional step to reduce property taxes by 0.5 mills when earned income tax collections begin. This reduction would apply to all property owners in the district, including senior citizens and residents on fixed incomes. As a result, the overall impact for a resident with no earned income would be a reduction in total taxes paid, addressing community concerns about affordability and property taxes, particularly among senior citizens on fixed incomes.

What is the district's strategic plan?

Through its strategic planning process and community input, the district identified the need to address aging facilities, improve safety, and operate more efficiently. If approved, the ballot issue would allow New Philadelphia City Schools to move forward with constructing new school facilities designed to better support student learning, enhance safety through a more secure campus layout, and centralize services to improve operational efficiency.

If passed, the May 2026 ballot issue would qualify the district for approximately \$80 million in state co-funding through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, helping reduce the local share of project costs while addressing long-term facility needs.

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 lifecycle. 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 built in accordance with 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.

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 a new middle/high school could look. This is not a final design.

What Happens if the Ballot Issue Does Not Pass

- The district will lose access to approximately \$80 million in Ohio Facilities Construction Commission co-funding after the 16-month eligibility period beginning July 2025 expires.
- The district would not have funding available to proceed with the planned 0.5-mill property tax reduction.
- 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 all nine with used units is estimated to cost about \$1.08 million.
- 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.
- Future facility repair and replacement costs may need to be funded from the district's operating budget, which could reduce funding for day-to-day operations such as transportation and instructional support.

What will the ballot language say?

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED SCHOOL DISTRICT INCOME TAX (ADDITIONAL)

(A Majority Affirmative Vote is Necessary for Passage.)

Shall an annual income tax of one and a half percent (1.50%) on the earned income of individuals residing in the school district be imposed by New Philadelphia City School District, for a continuing period of time, beginning January 1, 2027, for the purpose of current expenses?

FOR THE TAX

AGAINST THE TAX

How can I learn more about the ballot issue?

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