

Frequently Asked Questions about Project Cornerstone 2026: Building The Future

Why is the district having a bond vote?

The district is committed to our four cornerstones, and we believe our facilities and learning environments should reflect those values. This bond vote allows us to address critical facility needs and make improvements that support safe, modern, and effective learning spaces for our students and staff both now and in the future.

Importantly, this bond has a 0% tax impact on the community. By using a bond, the state covers a significant percentage of the project costs through building aid. If these same needs were addressed through the general budget instead, they would result in a substantial tax increase to local taxpayers. The bond vote is the most fiscally responsible way to invest in our schools while minimizing the impact on the community.

Why is this work necessary?

Every five years, the district is legally required to complete a certified Building Condition Survey (BCS), which provides a comprehensive inspection of our facilities, infrastructure, and major equipment. This process identifies items that have reached the end of their useful life and must be repaired or replaced to ensure continued safe and effective operation of our schools.

The work included in this project addresses critical needs such as replacing aging, end-of-life systems, maintaining secure and safe facilities for students and staff, and upgrading infrastructure to meet current standards. Improvements also include whole-house generators at school buildings to ensure continuity of operations and the safety of all occupants during power outages or emergency situations.

By addressing these needs proactively, the district is protecting its investment in school facilities, minimizing costly emergency repairs, and ensuring our schools remain safe, reliable, and supportive learning environments for years to come.

Why is the district looking to reopen Pine Hill Education Center?

As student enrollment continues to increase, the district must ensure class sizes remain manageable and that all students have access to appropriate learning environments. Reopening Pine Hill Education Center as a PreK–K building will provide additional classroom capacity to relieve space constraints in our current buildings and support effective instruction.

The building will also allow the district to create specialized classrooms designed to meet specific instructional needs, including designated spaces for special education and related services. As the demand for these services continues to grow, having appropriate, purpose-built spaces is essential to meeting student needs and maintaining compliance.

By creating additional space at Pine Hill, the district can also convert and repurpose areas within our existing school buildings to better meet the needs of all students, ensuring classrooms and support spaces are used as intended.

This timing aligns with the conclusion of our current lease of the Pine Hill Education Center with BOCES, as they are relocating to a different facility. Reopening the building allows the district to responsibly repurpose a district-owned facility to support students while planning for continued growth.

How were the projects chosen?

The projects included in this proposal were identified through a thoughtful and comprehensive planning process. A primary driver was the Building Condition Survey (BCS), which highlights facility and equipment needs requiring immediate attention to maintain safe and functional school buildings.

In addition, the district’s annual safety survey conducted in collaboration with our School Resource Officer (SRO) helped prioritize projects that strengthen building security and emergency preparedness. The needs of all students were also a key consideration, with a focus on ensuring proper and appropriate classroom spaces and addressing the rising demand for instructional, support, and student service areas.

Finally, the district sought and incorporated input from staff, teachers, and administrators who work in the buildings every day. Their firsthand perspectives helped ensure that the selected projects are practical, necessary, and aligned with both current needs and future growth.

When will the work take place?

It is expected that the project will start in April 2027 with completion in December 2029.

What happens if the project is not approved by voters?

If the project is rejected, parts of these costs will be funded through the general fund where no building aid will come from the state. Therefore, the local taxpayer will pay for the total cost for those items that need to be addressed, thus reducing the funds available for educational purposes.



District Offices
3600 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
(716) 686-3606

Board of Education
Renee M. Wilson, *President*
Edward W. Schaefer, *Vice President*
Yvonne H. Douglass, *Trustee*
Caleb Harte, *Trustee*
Carol Kiripolsky, *Trustee*
Holly Nowak, *Trustee*
Lisa Sekuterski, *Trustee*

Superintendent of Schools
Scott Zipp
szip@ccsd-k12.net
www.cheektowagak12.org

Postmaster:
Please Deliver by March 10-16, 2026

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4164
Buffalo, NY

Cheektowaga Central School District • Project Cornerstone: Building the Future • Vote Tuesday, April 14, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Cheektowaga Central School District • Project Cornerstone: Building the Future

Capital Project Town Hall

Monday, March 23, 2026
7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium
Submit Your Questions by March 18 at: <https://forms.gle/Nd9EEKeRYZmTTNzR8>

Capital Project Vote

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
11 a.m to 8 p.m.
Raymond L. Carr Board Room
in the High School
Please park in main (south) lot and use side entrance (adjacent to the parking lot) into the music area.

0% Tax Impact

Voting Information

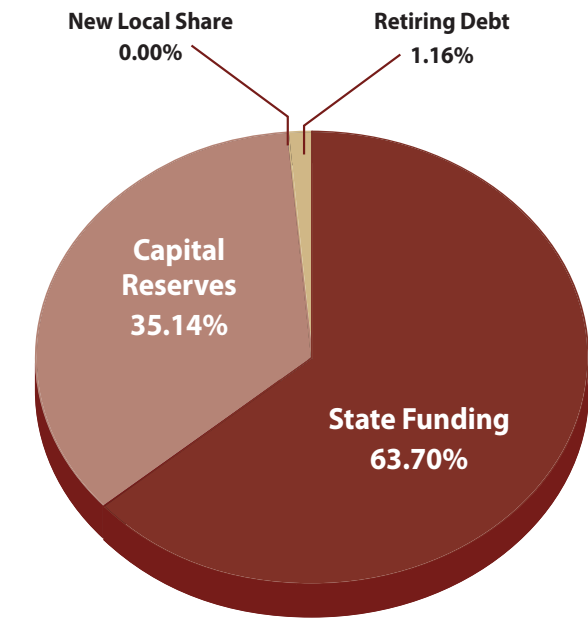
- Voting takes place in the Raymond L. Carr Board Room in the music wing of the High School from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- A person must be a citizen of the United States of America.
- A person must be 18 years of age or older.
- A person must be a resident (not necessarily a homeowner) of the district for at least thirty (30) days preceding the election. No prior registration is required and residents do not have to be registered voters. Identification will be required and the preferred forms are a Board of Elections’ card, driver’s license, postmarked mail, rental/lease receipt, a non-driver identification card or a utility bill.

LEARN MORE: CHEEKTOWAGAK12.ORG/CAPITALPROJECT

Project Cornerstone 2026 At A Glance

- Pine Hill School Reopening as a PreK–K Building**
- Renovated learning spaces, cafeteria, gym, and restrooms
 - New nurse and student support areas
 - Updated building systems and site improvements
- New Middle School Music Wing**
- New band and chorus rooms
 - Space designed for music instruction and performance
- Renovated Middle School / High School Library**
- Modern library media center
 - Flexible space for learning, collaboration, and technology
- Safety and Security Updates for All Buildings**
- Secure entrances and improved building security
 - Updated fire alarms and life-safety systems
 - Backup power for emergency situations

Project Financing



Project Cost	Amount of Reserves
\$49,806,000	\$17,500,000

Building Aid Ratio	Bond Percent (Aid Eligible)
72.60%	91.45%

Value of Project Ineligible Building Aid	Term of Building Aid Payback
\$4,256,875	15

Estimated Local Share for Proposed Project Per Year	Estimated Increase as % of 25-26 Levy \$28,292,162
(\$3,426)	-0.01%

Estimated Impact Per \$1,000 Full Value
(\$0.001)

Follow us on our social channels to see all of the great things happening in our buildings.

 @CheektowagaCentral.CCSD

 @CheektowagaCSD

 @CheektowagaCSD

Anticipated Project Timeline



Basement ceiling and wall repair needed due to a pool leak.



District-wide boiler room repairs and equipment replacement needs.



Teachers working out of the library because they don't have their own classrooms.



Middle School chorus is currently held in the corner of a regular instruction classroom.



Middle School band students lose 8-10 minutes of instructional time walking round-trip between the Middle School and the band room for lessons.



Auditorium ceiling repairs needed due to roof leak.

Message from the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education President

The Cheektowaga Central School District is proud to continue advancing Project Cornerstone 2026, focused on Well-Being, Relationships, Structure, and Engagement. As enrollment grows, our facilities must grow with it to support students and staff.

A centerpiece of this work is the reopening of Pine Hill School as a PreK–K building, helping relieve overcrowding and ensuring students have the space and resources they need to succeed.

Project Cornerstone 2026 also includes important safety, security, and learning-space enhancements across the District, such as secured vestibule entrances, a new music and chorus wing at the Middle School, renovated offices and libraries, and modernized, flexible learning environments. District-wide upgrades will improve infrastructure, life safety systems, HVAC, whole house generators, security features, dugouts, and lighting.

Together, these improvements prepare our schools for the future and strengthen our commitment to safe, engaging, and innovative learning spaces. Thank you for your continued partnership as we build our future...where character, curriculum, and community connect.

Scott Zipp
Superintendent of Schools

Renee Wilson
Board of Education President

