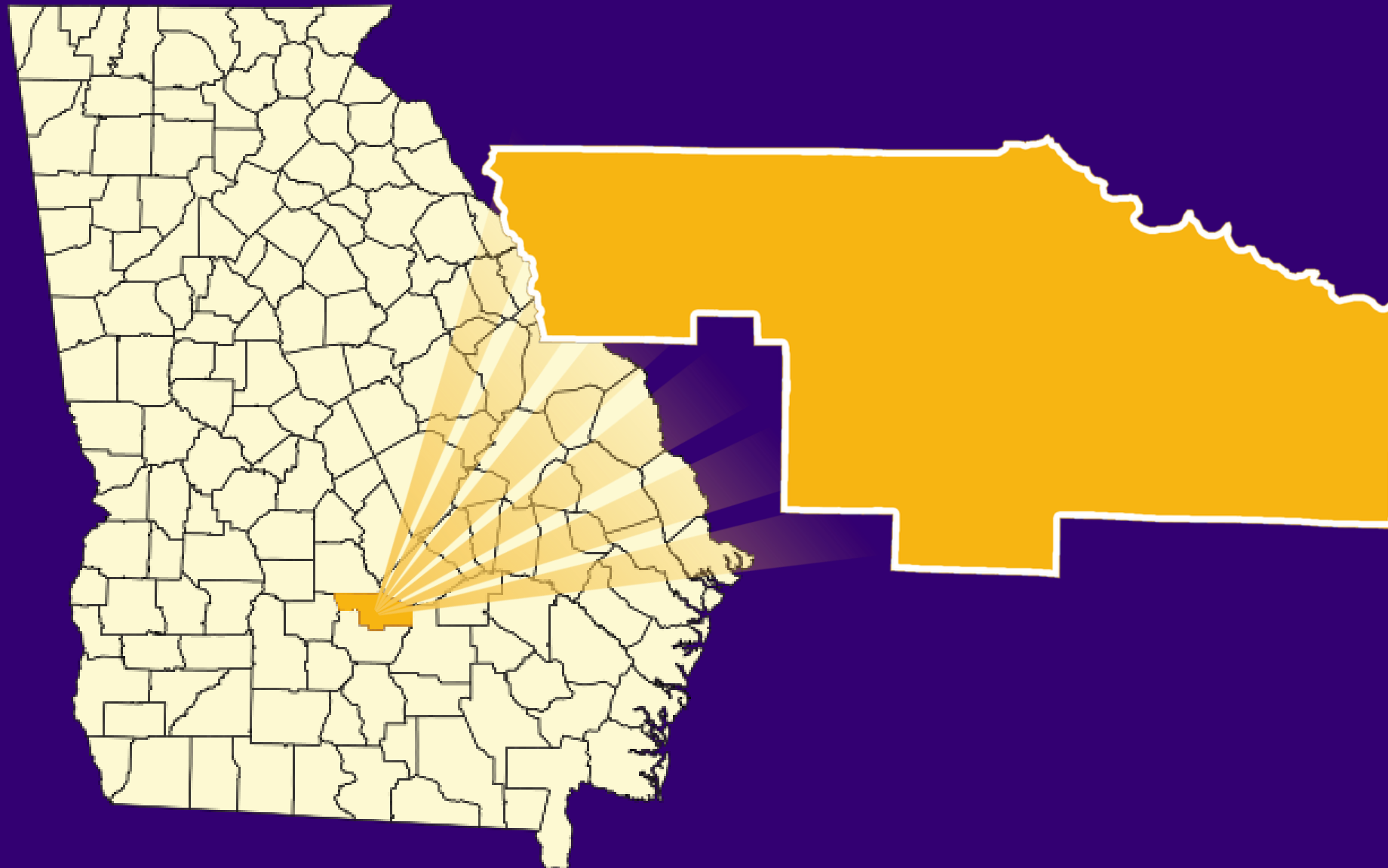


BEN HILL COUNTY SCHOOLS

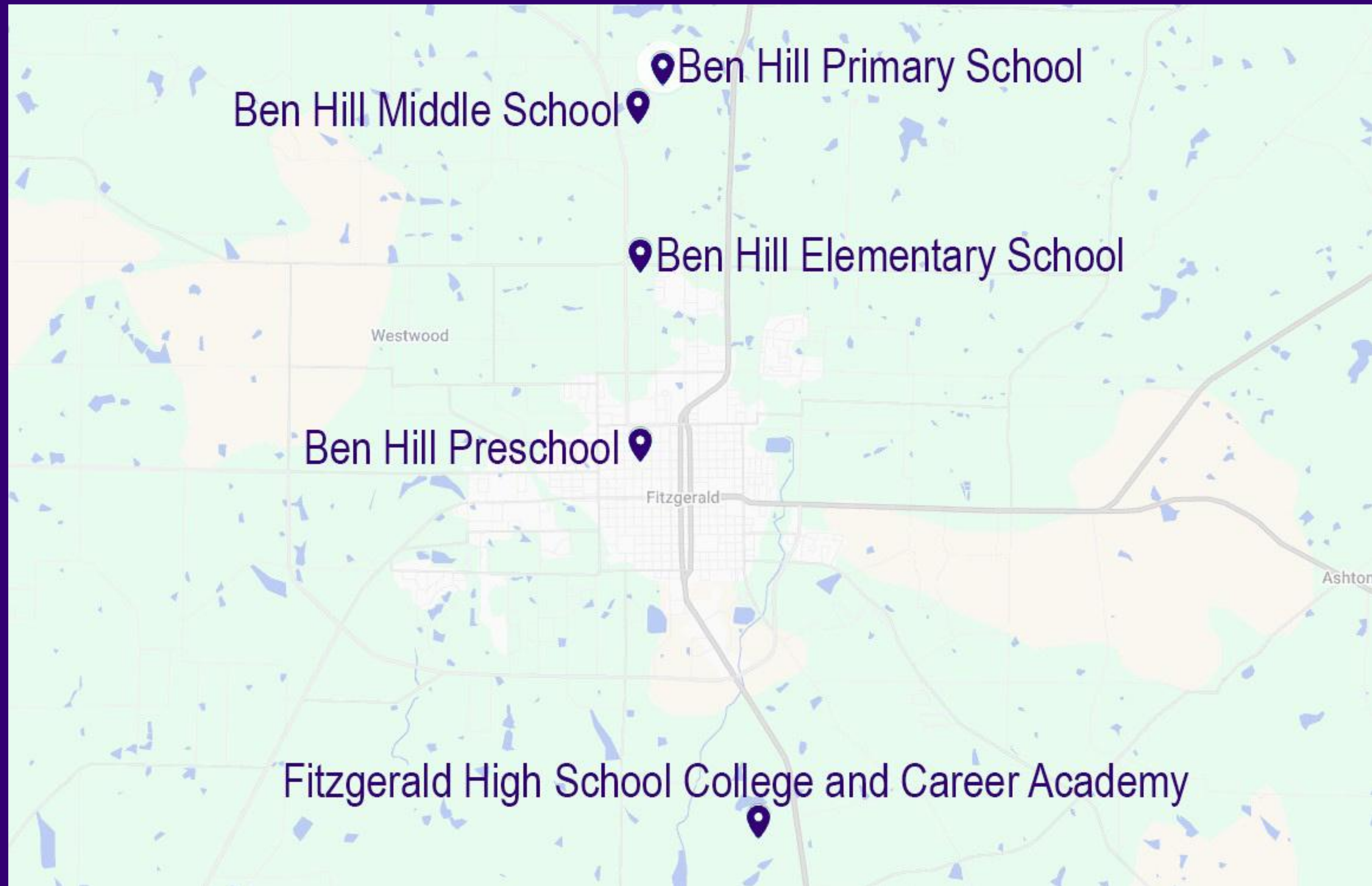
LOCAL FACILITIES PLAN PRESENTATION
MARCH 11, 2026



Ben Hill County, located in South Central Georgia, was established in 1906 and named for Benjamin Harvey Hill, US Senator of Georgia.



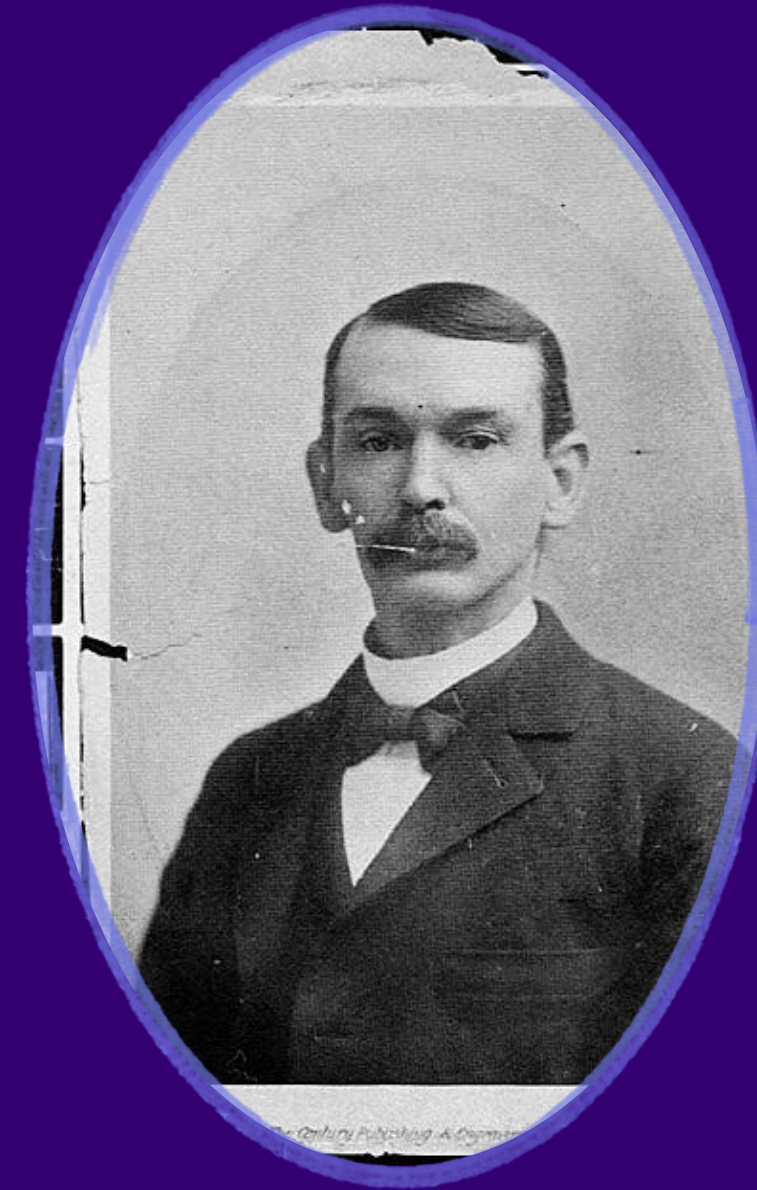


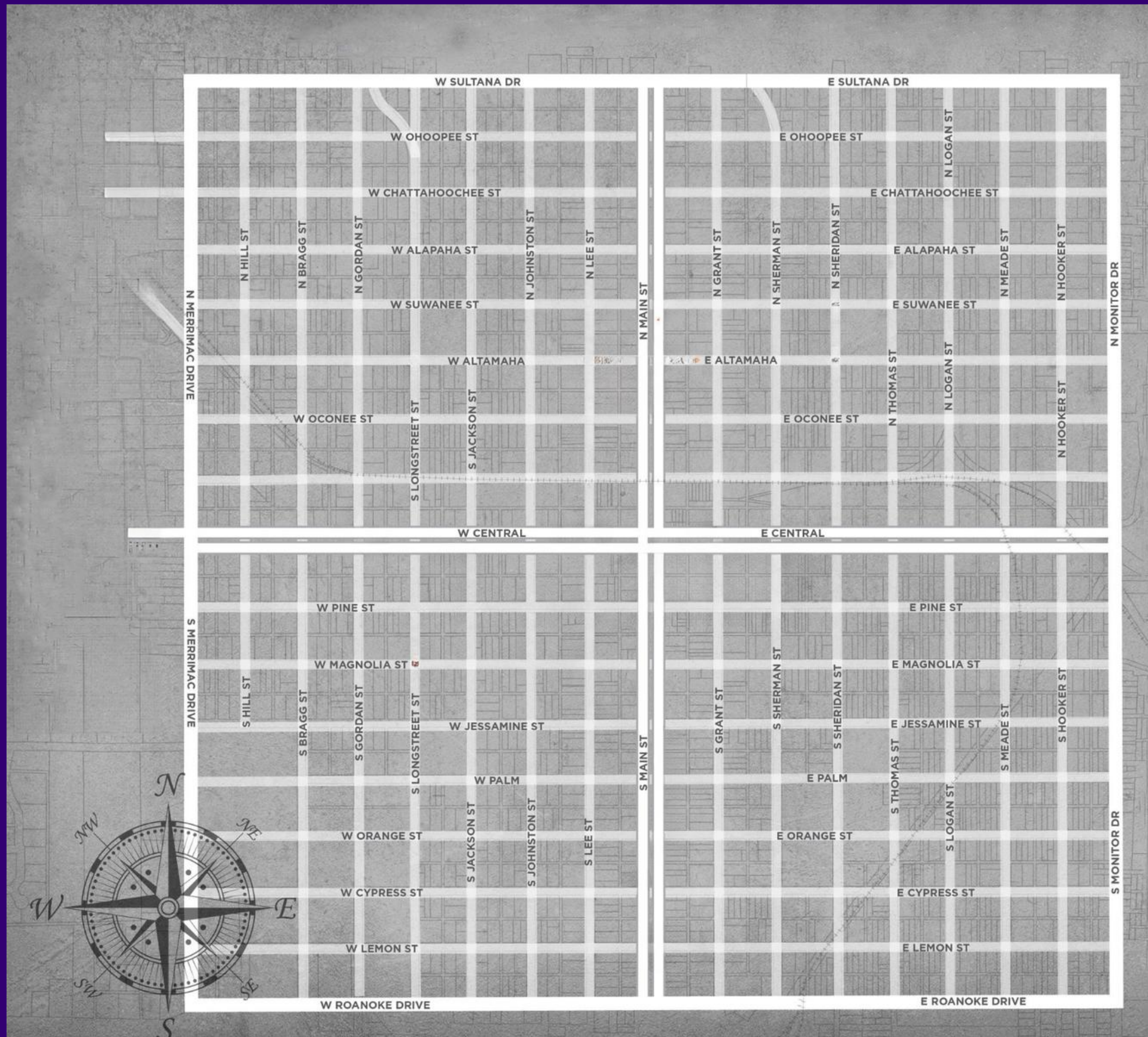


Ben Hill County & Fitzgerald

HISTORICAL ROOTS

- Ben Hill has only one incorporated city, Fitzgerald, (named after Philander H. Fitzgerald, a Union pension attorney) established in 1895.
- Fitzgerald was founded by former Union soldiers on a 100,000 acre tract.

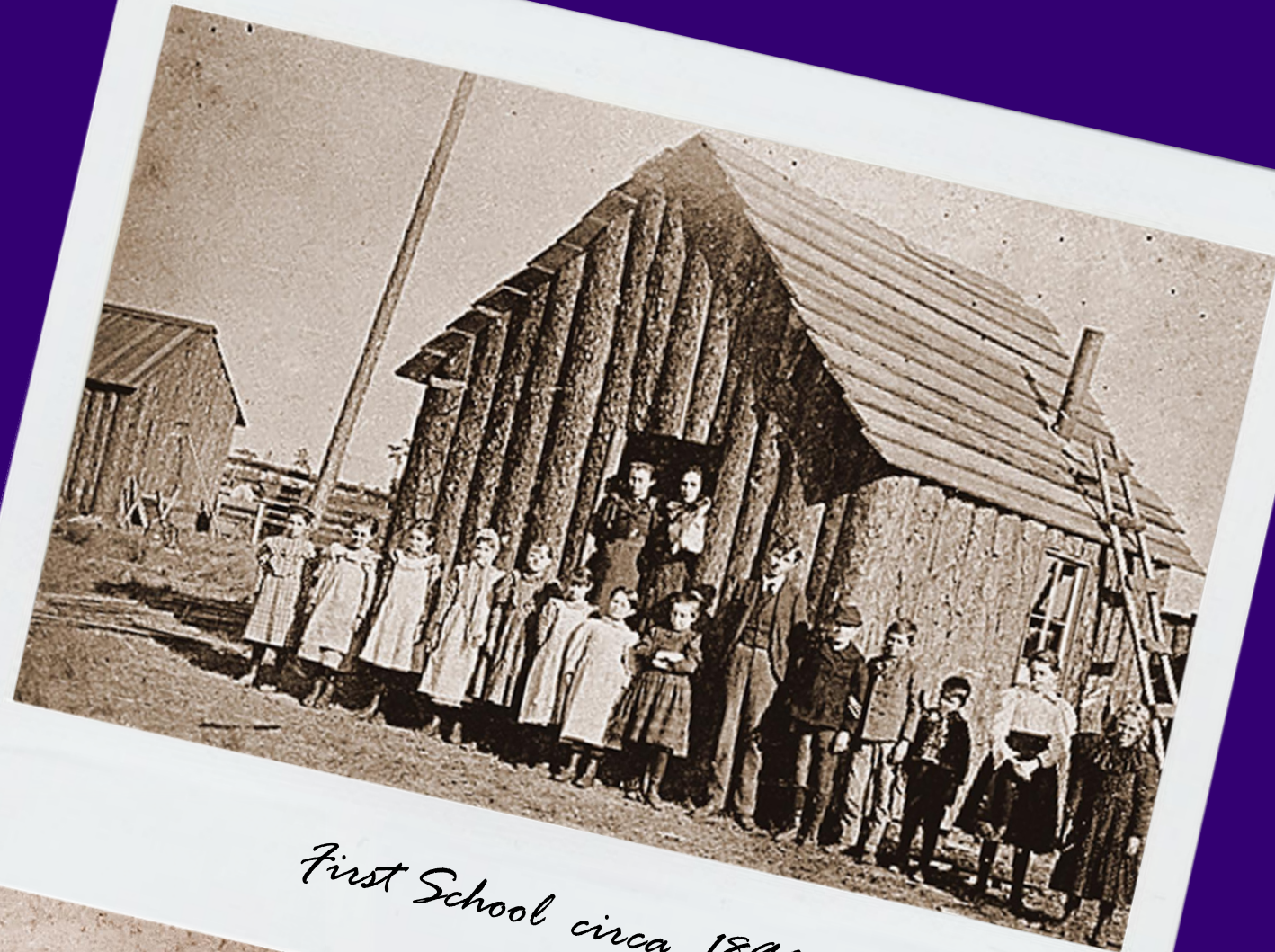




- Fitzgerald's planning includes homage to both the Union and Confederacy. Streets were named for Union and Confederate generals, southern rivers, southern plants, and notable ships.
- Fitzgerald is nicknamed "The Colony City" and hosts The Blue & Gray Museum, a space dedicated to the founding story of Fitzgerald and its roots in the Civil War.



Fitzgerald circa 1896



First School circa 1896



Lee-Grant Hotel circa 1898



Community Gathering circa 1908



First National Bank circa 1915



Garbutt-Donovan Building circa 1910

Ben Hill County OVERVIEW

- Ben Hill County's most prominent industrial sectors are food and beverage processing, wood products, plastics, and metal fabrication.
- Ben Hill County Schools is the largest employer for the county.
- The total population of Ben Hill County stands at 17,194.



Fitzgerald OVERVIEW

- The city of Fitzgerald is notable for its population of wild Burmese chickens. The presence of these exotic birds is the result of a 1960s wildlife project by the Department of Natural Resources, which initially released them near the Ocmulgee River for hunting purposes before the flock migrated into Fitzgerald city limits.
- Every March, Fitzgerald rolls out the red carpet for its feathered residents during the lively Wild Chicken Festival.





Modern Day Fitzgerald



Modern Day Post Office



Modern Day Carnegie Center



Modern Day Downtown



Modern Day Grand Theater



Modern Day Garbutt-Donovan Building

Ben Hill County Schools

EST. 1990

Ben Hill County Schools was established in 1990 after a consolidation with Fitzgerald City Schools. The District is currently comprised of Ben Hill Preschool, Ben Hill Primary School, Ben Hill Elementary School, Ben Hill Middle School, and Fitzgerald High School College and Career Academy.



Ben Hill County Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering all students for success.

Ben Hill County Schools

VISION STATEMENT

One “Family” committed to student success every day.

Ben Hill County Schools

BELIEF STATEMENTS

In Ben Hill County Schools, we believe...

Growth for all students is possible and expected...

Success is achieved when all students reach their potential...

Students deserve the best of all our efforts and resources...

Respectful relationships among all stakeholders create a positive learning experience...

Learning requires a commitment from all educators, students, parents, and other stakeholders...

"Family" encompasses all of Ben Hill County: its schools, citizens, and resources...

ALL MEANS ALL!

Ben Hill County Schools

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Enrollment		
Preschool	PK3-PK4	189
Primary School	K-2	600
Elementary School	3-5	571
Middle School	6-8	548
High School	9-12	781
District	2,689	



Ben Hill County Schools

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Metric	Ben Hill	State
Graduation Rate	92.2%	87.2%
College & Career Readiness	75.9%	75.9%
Economically Disadvantaged	100%	N/A

Race/Ethnicity	
Black	43.6%
White	39.4%
Hispanic	12.2%
Multi	4.1%
Asian	0.3%
Other	0.07%

Revenue Sources	
Federal	21%
State	58%
Local	17%
Other	4%

Ben Hill County Schools

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Student Transportation	
Routes	25
Buses	40
Drivers	25
Substitute Drivers	11
Bus Monitors	17
Daily Transported Students	1,346
Daily Route Miles	1,995



Ben Hill County Schools

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Five Year Reported FTE PK-12	
SY	Reported
2020 - 2021	3,002
2021 - 2022	3,053
2022 - 2023	3,000
2023 - 2024	2,988
2024 - 2025	2,830



Ben Hill County Schools

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Five Year Projected FTE PK-12	
SY	Reported
2025 - 2026	2,787
2026 - 2027	2,744
2027 - 2028	2,701
2028 - 2029	2,658
2029 - 2030	2,615



Ben Hill County Schools

TOTAL NEED

Plan Overview	FTE Projection	FTE Adjustments	System Need	Facility Need	Construction Need	Renovation Need	Modification Need	Exceptions (2)	Total Need	Certification																																																																																										
Total Need <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Priority</th> <th>Application Funding FY</th> <th>Facility Name</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Support Type</th> <th>Support \$</th> <th>Additions Units</th> <th>Additions \$</th> <th>New Units</th> <th>New \$</th> <th>Renovations Units</th> <th>Renovations \$</th> <th>Modifications</th> <th>Eligible Need</th> <th>Local</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>TBD</td> <td>Ben Hill County Elementary Facility</td> <td>0109</td> <td></td> <td>\$0</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>28</td> <td>\$474,320</td> <td>\$969,798</td> <td>\$1,444,118</td> <td>\$9,390,655</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>TBD</td> <td>Ben Hill County Middle Facility</td> <td>0296</td> <td></td> <td>\$0</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$1,997,934</td> <td>\$1,997,934</td> <td>\$6,218,447</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>TBD</td> <td>Ben Hill County Primary Facility</td> <td>0196</td> <td></td> <td>\$0</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>3</td> <td>\$50,820</td> <td>\$1,808,907</td> <td>\$1,859,727</td> <td>\$6,594,708</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>TBD</td> <td>Fitzgerald High School C & C Facility</td> <td>0116</td> <td>M</td> <td>\$23,976</td> <td>1</td> <td>\$79,920</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$103,896</td> <td>\$6,247,486</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Priority</td> <td></td> <td colspan="2">Total of all projects</td> <td></td> <td>\$23,976</td> <td>1</td> <td>\$79,920</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>31</td> <td>\$525,140</td> <td>\$4,776,639</td> <td>\$5,405,675</td> <td>\$28,451,296</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> * Use the following code to identify support items: C = Kitchen D = Cafeteria G = Administration M = RR/Circulation Total improvement costs eligible for earning entitlement \$5,405,675 Total improvement costs ineligible for earning entitlement \$28,451,296 Total other local costs that are not part of the State Capital Outlay program \$0											Priority	Application Funding FY	Facility Name	Code	Support Type	Support \$	Additions Units	Additions \$	New Units	New \$	Renovations Units	Renovations \$	Modifications	Eligible Need	Local	1	TBD	Ben Hill County Elementary Facility	0109		\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	28	\$474,320	\$969,798	\$1,444,118	\$9,390,655	2	TBD	Ben Hill County Middle Facility	0296		\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	\$1,997,934	\$1,997,934	\$6,218,447	3	TBD	Ben Hill County Primary Facility	0196		\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$50,820	\$1,808,907	\$1,859,727	\$6,594,708	4	TBD	Fitzgerald High School C & C Facility	0116	M	\$23,976	1	\$79,920	0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$103,896	\$6,247,486	Priority		Total of all projects			\$23,976	1	\$79,920	0	\$0	31	\$525,140	\$4,776,639	\$5,405,675	\$28,451,296
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Advanced Funding Other Local Costs																																																																																																				

Ben Hill County Schools

SYSTEM NEED, FTE DISTRIBUTIONS & IU'S

System Need For Instructional Units (IUs) and Support Spaces

🔼 Elementary

Id	Facility Name	Org	2029		2030							Local		Total	
			FTE	IUs	FTE	Available	IUs	Net Gain Loss Funded	Net Available	Status	Eligible	FTE	IUs	FTE	IUs
0109	Ben Hill County Elementary Facility	3-5	529	29	510	60	28	0	60	32	0	0	0	510	28
0196	Ben Hill County Primary Facility	PK-2	575	37	759	52	48	0	52	4	0	0	0	759	48
			1104	66	1269	112	76	0	112	36	0	0	0	1269	76

🔼 Middle

Id	Facility Name	Org	2029		2030							Local		Total	
			FTE	IUs	FTE	Available	IUs	Net Gain Loss Funded	Net Available	Status	Eligible	FTE	IUs	FTE	IUs
0296	Ben Hill County Middle Facility	6-8	577	38	549	49	36	0	49	13	0	0	0	549	36
			577	38	549	49	36	0	49	13	0	0	0	549	36

🔼 High

Id	Facility Name	Org	2029		2030							Local		Total	
			FTE	IUs	FTE	Available	IUs	Net Gain Loss Funded	Net Available	Status	Eligible	FTE	IUs	FTE	IUs
0116	Fitzgerald High School C & C Facility	9-12	872	48	797	55	44	0	55	11	0	0	0	797	44
			872	48	797	55	44	0	55	11	0	0	0	797	44

Ben Hill County Schools

ECONOMIC IMPACT

ESPLOST Collections		
FY	Total ESPLOST Collections	Monthly Avg
FY21	\$ 2,942,989.60	\$ 245,249.13
FY22	\$ 2,794,779.90	\$ 232,898.33
FY23	\$ 3,006,874.47	\$ 250,572.87
FY24	\$ 2,927,692.15	\$ 243,974.35
FY25	\$ 3,069,026.05	\$ 255,752.17
FY26	\$ 2,055,463.53	\$ 256,932.94
Total	\$ 16,796,825.70	\$ 247,563.30



Projected Yearly Collections	
Total Cash Collections	Monthly Average
\$ 2,970,759.58	\$ 247,563.30

Ben Hill County Schools

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Revenue	
Current Millage Rate	15.089 mills
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 2,986,805.00
Local Revenue Ad Valorem ESPLOST	\$ 7,980,000.00 \$ 2,880,000.00
State Revenue	\$ 29,907,083.00
Federal Revenue	\$ 5,992,029.00
Other	\$ 317,666.00
FY26 Budged Revenue	\$ 47,076,778.00



Ben Hill County Schools

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Outstanding Lease Payments		
ESPLOST Cycle	Total Debt Payments	Anticipated ESPLOST Collections
2021 - 2025	\$ 11,044,859.72	74%
2026 - 2030	\$ 11,505,225.00	77%
2031 - 2035	\$ 10,916,150.00	73%
2036 - 2040	\$ 4,288,000.00	29%



Ben Hill Preschool

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



In an effort to optimize funding for core instruction and student initiatives, the District will be consolidating Ben Hill Preschool with the Primary School and closing this location after FY26.

Ben Hill Primary School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION

Occupied in 1996

109,015 sq ft

52 IU



UPGRADES

- HVAC
- Flooring
- Windows
- Water Fountains
- Greenhouse
- LED Lighting
- Playground

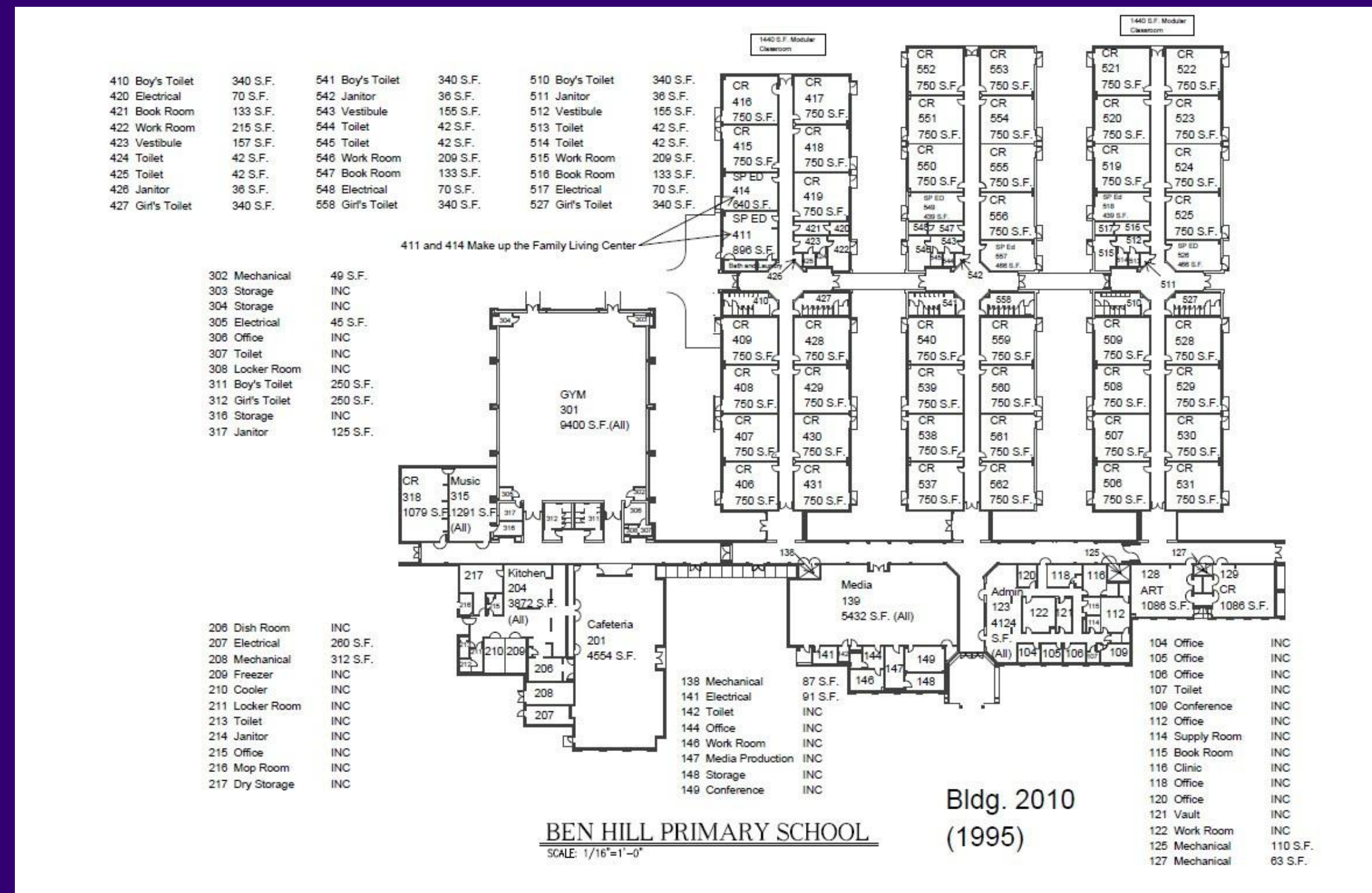
Ben Hill Primary School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Ben Hill Primary School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION

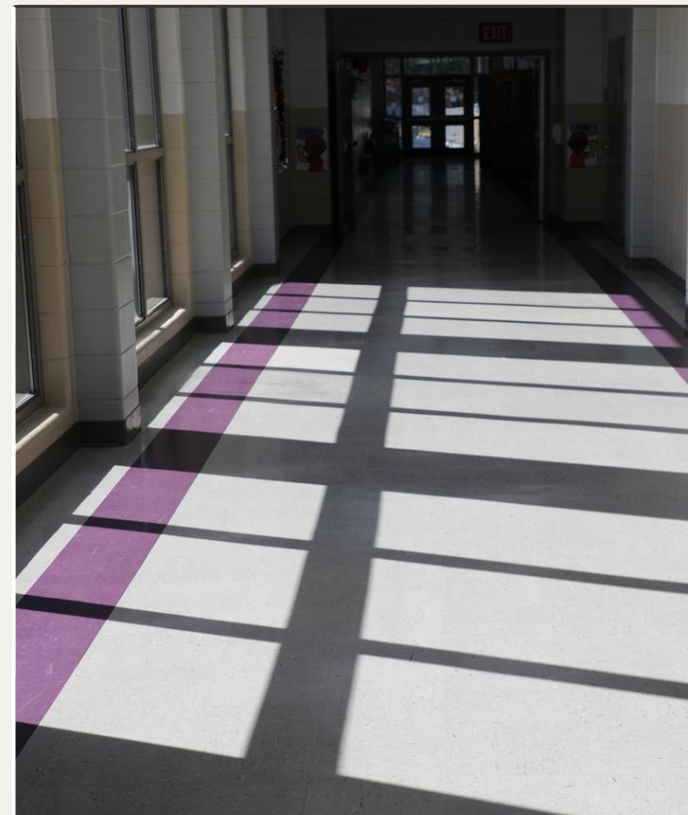


Ben Hill Primary School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



HVAC



Flooring



Windows



LED Lighting & Interior Paint

Ben Hill Primary School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Greenhouse



Water Fountain Bottle Fillers



Playground

Ben Hill Elementary School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION

Occupied in 2011

104,498 sq ft

60 IU



UPGRADES

- Gym Floor
- Water Fountain Bottle Fillers
- LED Lighting

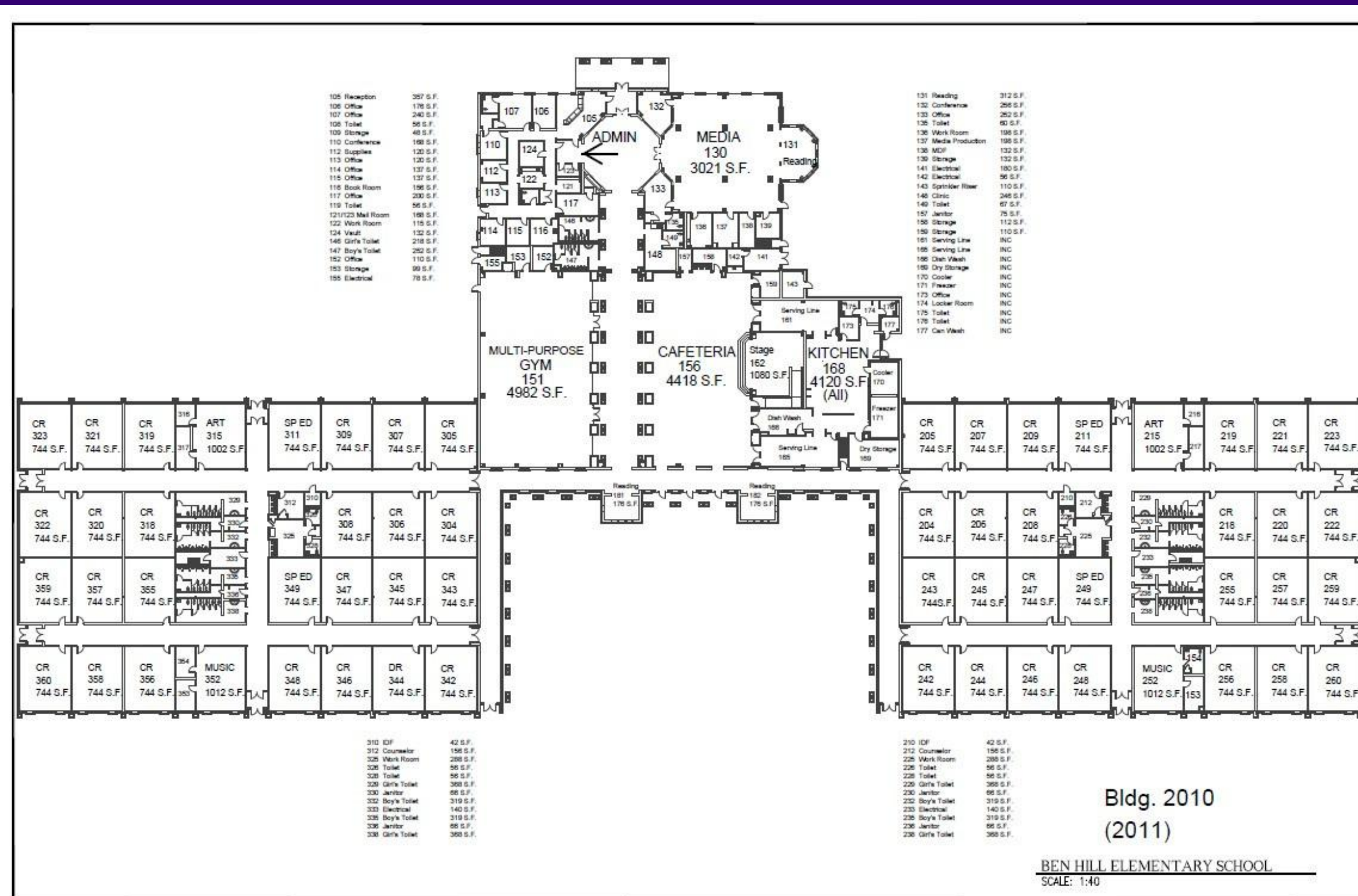
Ben Hill Elementary School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Ben Hill Elementary School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Ben Hill Elementary School

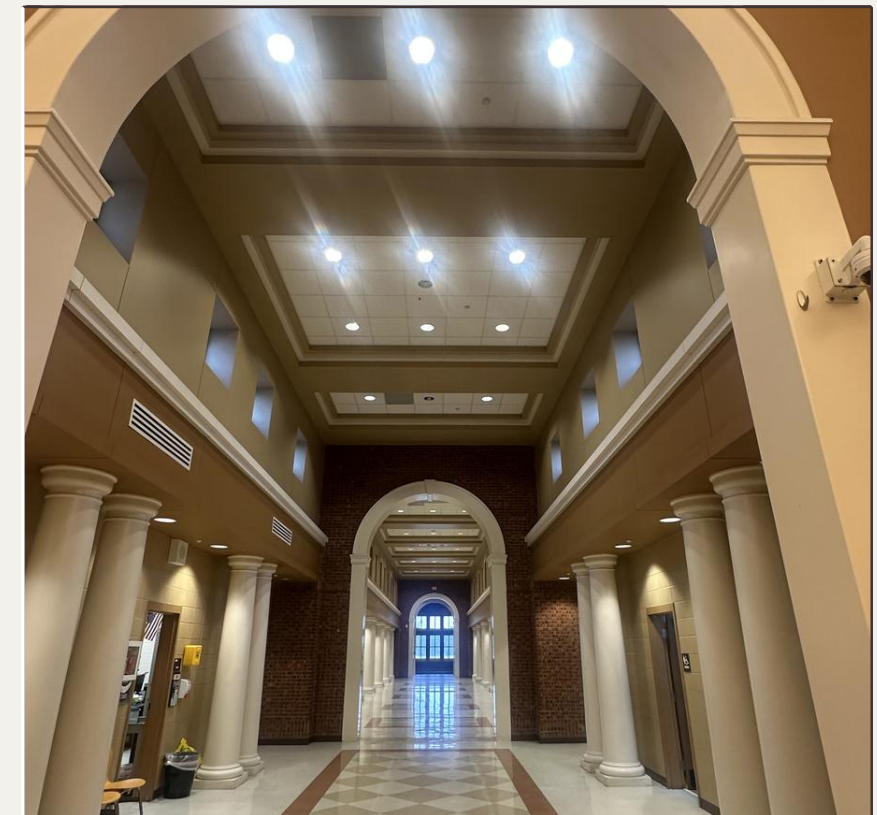
RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Gym Floor



Water Fountain Bottle Fillers



LED Lighting

Ben Hill Middle School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION

Occupied in 1996

118,038 sq ft

49 IU



UPGRADES

- Interior Painting
- Flooring
- Gym Floor
- HVAC
- SPED Playground
- School Based Health Clinic

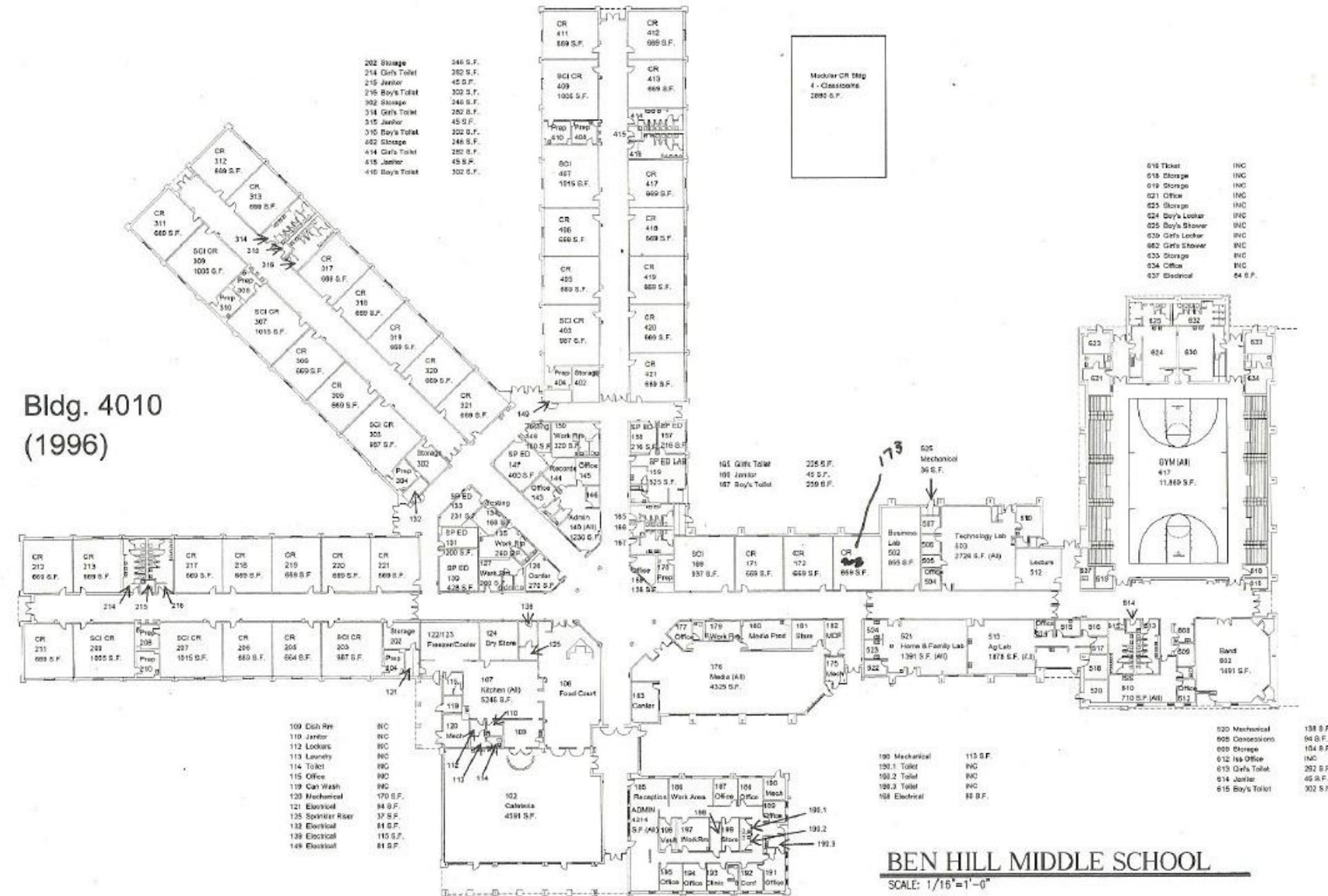
Ben Hill Middle School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Ben Hill Middle School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Ben Hill Middle School

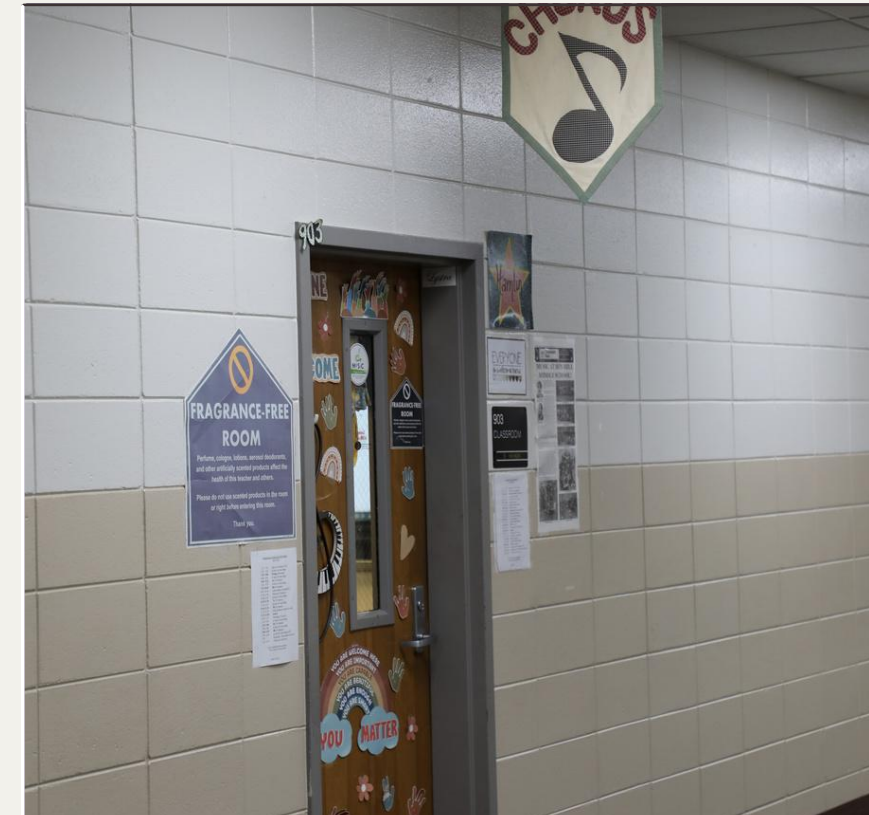
RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Gym Floor



Flooring



Interior Paint

Ben Hill Middle School

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



HVAC



SPED Playground



School Based Health Clinic

Fitzgerald High School College & Career Academy

RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION

Occupied in 2022

172,845 sq ft

55 IU



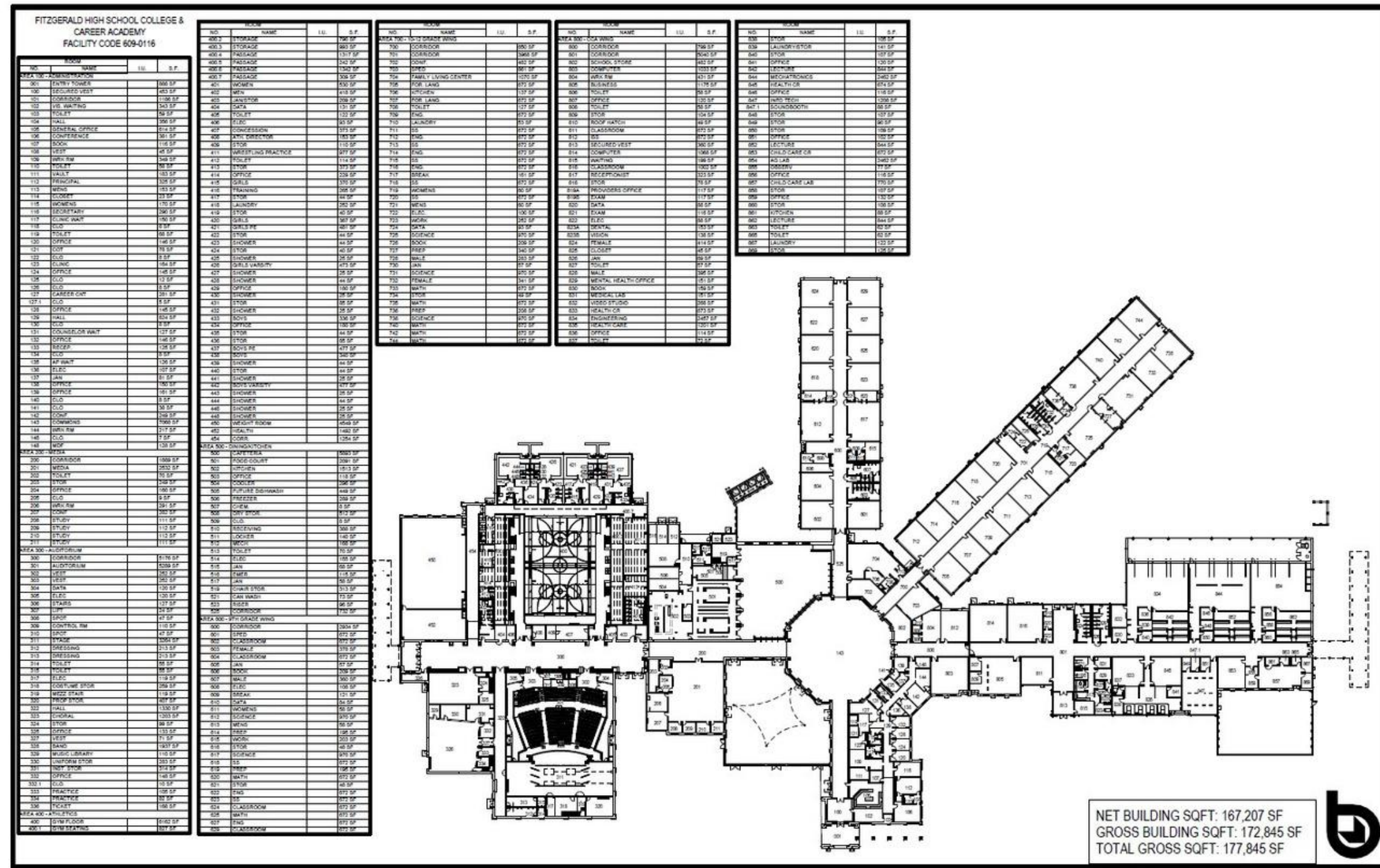
UPGRADES

- Baseball/Softball Complex
- HVAC
 - Cheer Gym
 - Field House
 - Weight Room
- School Based Health Clinic

Fitzgerald High School College & Career Academy RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Fitzgerald High School
College & Career Academy
RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Fitzgerald High School College & Career Academy RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



HVAC - Field House



HVAC - Cheer Gym



Baseball/Softball Complex

Fitzgerald High School College & Career Academy RENOVATION, MODIFICATION, & MODERNIZATION



Baseball/Softball Complex



Baseball/Softball Complex

Ben Hill County Schools

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

21
CTAE PATHWAYS

322
***CTAE PATHWAY
ENROLLMENTS***

243
PATHWAY COMPLETERS

98
STUDENTS PASSED EOPA

BUSINESS PARTNERS

- Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
- Dominy Medical Center
- West Fraser
- The Raynor Company
- Millex

**Data reflects
FY25*

Ben Hill County Schools

SAFETY OVERVIEW

Centegix Integration with 911

SRO and/or Security Officer at every site

Access Controls for Primary, Elementary, Middle and High Schools

Weapons screening daily at each site with metal detectors and hand wands

Safety fencing has been added for Primary, Elementary, and Middle Schools, and sports complex; High School has gated entrance

Over 442 security cameras between all locations

Audio Enhancement classroom cameras K-12

Code Red door and window security for Primary School

Ben Hill County Schools

SAFETY OVERVIEW

Door surveillance and access control at all sites

Cameras on all buses

Upgraded our technology systems to deter cyber attacks

Addition of Director of Safety

Safety Seal of Approval awarded to all schools

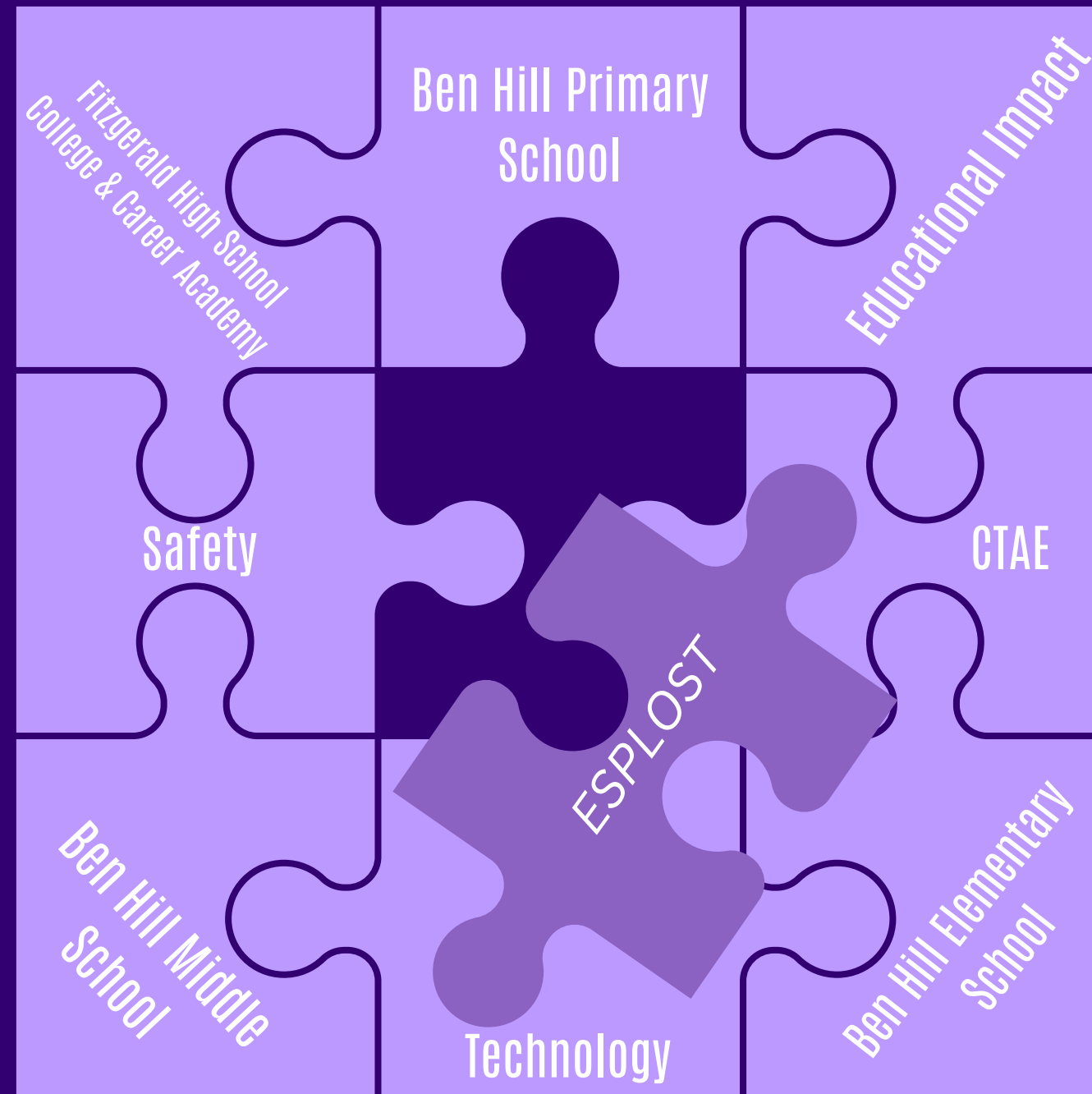
Upgraded Fire alarms for Primary, Elementary, and Middle Schools

All Sheriff and Police vehicles outfitted with access badges for all sites

Anonymous Alerts reporting system for students, staff, and community

Ben Hill County Schools

UPCOMING ESPLOST PROJECTS



- Additional school buses
- Facility needs as they arise for maintaining older buildings
- Safety upgrades
- Technology equipment
- Athletic fields maintenance
- Instructional equipment
- Weapons detection equipment

Ben Hill County Schools

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

