

North Tonawanda City School District

2026 Capital Project Proposal

Question and Answer Document

1. What is the source of funding for the project if there is no tax increase?

Funding for this tax-neutral project is split by approximately 80% state aid reimbursement, which is paired with 20% of district capital reserves which can only be utilized for this purpose.

2. Why is there a need for another sports field, and how will it be used? What sports will the multipurpose field accommodate, and will existing fields still be used?

The additional turf field will be a multi-use space, supporting softball and baseball during the spring season and soccer in the fall. It will also be available for physical education classes and other athletic activities. Installing a turf field for softball and baseball will allow the district to host home games more consistently, even when spring weather conditions are unfavorable. The existing baseball and softball fields will still be needed until the turf fields are ready. After that, they will still be used for practice and could be used by other city organizations.

3. What are the timelines for the project, and will it impact instruction?

The project will be completed in three phases. For each phase, the majority of construction will take place during summer recess to minimize any impact on instruction.

The anticipated scope of work and timelines are indicated below:

Phase 1		
Drake Ohio Spruce	Art, Music, PE, Security Upgrades, Cafe A.C., Kitchen Upgrades, Sidewalk Replacement, Playground Enhancements	Late Spring 2028 – Summer 2028
NTHS	3 rd Floor Math Classrooms (Classes will relocate for the year)	Summer 2028 – Summer 2029
Phase 2		
Ohio Spruce	Roof Replacements	Summer 2029
NTI	PE, Security Upgrades, Cafe A.C., Parking Lot Repaving	Late Spring 2029 – Summer 2029
	Pool Upgrades	Spring 2029 – Fall 2029
NTMS/	Cafe A.C.	Summer 2029

NTHS	Athletic Field Upgrades	Summer 2029 – Summer 2030
Phase 3		
Bus Garage	Parking Lot Expansion	Summer 2030
NTMS/ NTHS	Select Parking Lot Repaving, Security Upgrades	Late Spring 2030 – Summer 2030

4. What is the process for selecting contractors, and how is cost-effectiveness ensured?

The district works with Buffalo Construction Consultants to manage the bidding and construction process. When appropriate, purchases are made through New York State contract pricing and municipal cooperative purchasing agreements. For other trades, the district follows a competitive bidding process with regional contractors. Bid opportunities are advertised in local newspapers, posted on the district website, and listed through construction industry exchange services.

5. Will air conditioning be installed in all buildings, and what are the plans for classroom upgrades?

Air conditioning will be installed in the cafeterias in all district buildings. Classroom upgrades include renovations to Art, Music, and gym spaces at all K–3 buildings, the gym at NTI, and the third-floor classrooms at the high school.

K–3 classrooms are also being renovated as part of our current capital project.

6. How will safety and security be improved, including the use of security cameras and metal detectors?

We plan to replace interior doors with upgraded models that feature smaller vision panels and secure swipe or fob access. In addition, interior and exterior security cameras will be added and existing systems will be upgraded to higher-resolution cameras. Security detectors will continue to be utilized at the middle school and high school to support ongoing safety measures.

7. Are there plans for improving parking and access at the sports complex?

As a district, we are exploring options to expand parking at the athletic complex behind the high school. We recognize the need for additional and improved parking, and this will remain a priority moving forward.

8. How will asbestos and other safety concerns be managed during construction?

Safety for our students, staff, and other stakeholders using the facilities is always a top priority. When asbestos abatement is necessary, removal will take place during recess periods when students are not present. Third party testing is performed before, during, and after the project to ensure a safe learning and working environment. Additionally, facility access is limited and controlled for staff when other construction work is occurring during the summer months.

9. What is swipe access, and how will it affect students, staff, and parents?

We plan to replace interior doors with upgraded doors that include smaller vision panels and secure swipe or fob access. Staff will use their ID badges to unlock doors, allowing for controlled access throughout the building. In the event of a lockdown, doors will automatically close and lock, enhancing building security and helping to ensure the safety of students and staff. This upgrade supports our ongoing commitment to improving school safety while maintaining efficient daily operations.

10. How will cost overruns be handled by the district?

The proposed project includes anticipated inflationary adjustments and unexpected contingency expenses that must be remediated when construction is occurring. The district will not exceed the proposed budget of \$59.9 million. If costs are running higher than expected, some items may be removed from the project. The multi-phased approach strategically allows for select items to be removed from scope and possibly put into future projects without sacrificing on the quality of the rest of the project.

11. What are the plans for the adaptive playground at Ohio Elementary?

A fully inclusive playground will be constructed behind the existing playground at Ohio. The district is partnering with Mason's Mission to design a playground that is accessible and welcoming for all students. The project will be modeled after the Mason's Mission playground located in Pendleton.

12. Why is this project up for a vote if there is no tax increase?

Under New York State Education Law Section 3651, capital reserves are subject to strict voter oversight: residents must vote to establish the fund and vote again to spend it.