



Wall Township Public Schools
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Dear WTPS Family:

We are pleased to share that the state has given final approval for the Wall Township Public School District to pursue a bond referendum. That approval includes a commitment for state funding to contribute \$20 million toward improvements at our schools, with voter approval of bonds to cover the remainder of costs.

The Wall Township Board of Education's next step will determine how the proposed improvements will be placed on the ballot for Tuesday, December 13, 2022. The Board was focused on strategically packaging the most critical needs into a ballot question that would have **no impact on the current property tax rate**. A second question on the same ballot would include other important projects.

Pending official action at the Board meeting on Tuesday, November 1, the community will vote on the following improvements.

- **Included in Question 1:** Improvements at all schools, including replacement of old HVAC and electrical systems, roof replacements, modernization of restrooms and classrooms, and renovation of Wall High School's auditorium. Total costs are estimated at \$53.1 million. State aid of \$18 million would reduce the share on local property tax bills. The district is finishing payments on previous voter-approved improvements, and voters are asked to renew the current level of debt payments to keep the district's schools maintained with **no tax increase**.
- **Included in Question 2:** Renovations of Wall High School's athletic facilities and an art room; HVAC and electrical work at WHS, Old Mill, and West Belmar schools; window replacements at Wall Intermediate School; parking improvements at Allenwood. Total costs are estimated at \$13.5 million. State aid of \$2 million would reduce the share on local property tax bills. For a home assessed at the average in Wall Township (\$483,357), these improvements would cost about \$5 a month.

This proposal addresses needs within our schools. Using a bond referendum opens the door to state aid that WTPS cannot get any other way. Without it, 100% of the costs would come from local taxes.

In summary, please note the following key points.

- Question 1 will include improvements to all 7 schools with **no tax increase**.
- Question 2, which involves a slight tax increase as referenced above, **cannot pass independently**. Voter approval on Question 1 is necessary for Question 2 to pass.
- The website wallpublicschools.org/vision will continue to be expanded with more information, including the recently updated state aid figures.

Follow our social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) for updates on our efforts to share information with the WTPS community.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Handerhan, D. Litt.
Superintendent of Schools