

Renovations and Upgrades for Our Schools

FAQ

Why do we need renovations and upgrades?

Due to proactive maintenance and many years of community support, the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools has been able to responsibly maintain our facilities. Continuing that effort, the administration and Board of Education identified and prioritized facility upgrade needs to ensure that our facilities stay up to date, operate efficiently, and provide a comfortable learning environment for our students for many years to come.

Why now?

Implementing a facility improvement plan takes many months. Moving forward now with a plan to address the facility improvements enables us to meet the needs sooner while hopefully avoiding significant inflationary increases.

What will be on the November Ballot?

On July 19, 2022, the CFCS Board of Education approved a resolution to place a 2.98 mill Bond Issue on the November ballot to provide stadium and building renovations and upgrades throughout the school district.

How would the bond issue funds be utilized?

If approved by the CFCS community, the bond issue funds will be utilized to complete the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools stadium and facility upgrades which include:

- Sewer service modifications for Copley High School and Copley-Fairlawn Middle School
- Kitchen and cafeteria renovations for Copley High School and Copley-Fairlawn Middle School
- Main entrance upgrades for Copley High School including security entrance enhancements
- Existing restroom upgrades for each school building including family restrooms
- Parking lot upgrades for each school building
- Stadium renovations for Copley High School including a new field house, new home and visitor bleachers, and new eight-lane track
- Stadium improvements for Copley-Fairlawn Middle School including a turf field, four-lane track and fencing.
- Locker room upgrades for Copley High School and Copley-Fairlawn Middle School
- Baseball and Softball press boxes
- Auditorium upgrades for Copley High School

Why don't we just build new schools?

Given the age and condition of our schools, replacing schools is much more expensive than providing facility upgrades and improvements. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission's Two-Thirds Guidelines sets the replace versus renovate standard for school facilities at two-thirds (66%) of the cost of a new building. We have estimated that building new facilities would cost approximately seven times the cost of renovating and upgrading our facilities.

Will the bond issue fund be used for salaries or operating costs?

No. If approved, this bond issue will only pay for the elements designated as stadium and building renovations and upgrades.

What will the renovations and upgrades cost?

The total cost for the stadium and facilities upgrades is projected to be \$50,000,000. If approved by the CFCS voters, the Bond Issue will generate \$50 million dollars that will be utilized to complete the projects.

What is the time frame for the renovations for our schools?

If approved by the CFCS voters, work on the projects would begin in the spring of 2023.

What has the district done to operate efficiently and extend the use of tax dollars?

Over the past 15 years, the district has effectively utilized permanent improvement dollars to replace roofs, windows, doors, security systems, secure vestibules, technology, buses and HVAC so that we would not incur the overwhelming costs associated with building new facilities.

How long will the bond issue last?

If approved, the bond issue will not exceed 30 years.

How will you keep parents and community members informed of the plans and progress?

The District is dedicated to keeping the community informed. Our website, District communications, and Board of Education meetings will help keep the community informed about the stadium and facility plans and progress.

Where can I find out more information?

For more information about the stadium and building upgrades, please visit our facility plan webpage at www.copley-fairlawn.org/renovations.

What is this going to cost me?

Property tax rates are expressed in mills; a mill is equivalent to \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value. A 2.98 mill bond will cost a homeowner \$104.36 annually per \$100,000 of home valuation or \$8.04 per month

How long has it been since the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools has had a property tax levy on the ballot?

CFCS has not been on the ballot since 2010 for a new money levy. In 2012, constituents approved the transition of a 5-year levy to a continuing levy.

Why are we planning to spend bond issue funds on sewage infrastructure?

As with any component of a large public facility, sewage infrastructure must be maintained on a consistent schedule to avoid system failure and costly repair bills. Money spent on sewage infrastructure is an investment in creating an efficient, cost-effective waste management system. The funds supporting our sewage infrastructure will ensure our system is prepared for technological updates, our staff is trained in innovative waste management procedures and our community is receiving the highest quality service we can provide.