



# Guilderland Central School District

## What is a School Capital Improvement Project?

Just like a home, school facilities need regular attention and upkeep to continue to operate year after year as originally intended. The cost of keeping up with the daily wear and tear caused by thousands of students, staff and visitors can rise above what the annual school budget can support.

Capital improvement projects are a way for school districts to access state aid to complete a larger amount of facilities work than possible within the scope of the annual school budget.

Beginning in March 2018, a committee of students, teachers, support staff, parents, administrators and community members worked with a team of architects and engineers to develop a proposal to address important needs throughout all our district's buildings. In August, the Board of Education voted to adopt the recommendation of the committee.



## Capital Construction Project Referendum Vote: Tuesday, Oct. 16

On Tuesday, October 16, Guilderland Central School District residents will head to the polls to decide on a **\$42.7 million** capital construction project. If approved by voters, the project will address necessary improvements to enhance the safety and security of district buildings and grounds, make learning environments healthier and more comfortable, and modernize learning spaces.

**The \$42,718,100 proposition** calls for upgrades to aging infrastructure in the district's seven school buildings and improvements for safety, security and technology systems district-wide. If approved by the community in October, construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2020.

For district residents owning a home or property with an assessed full value of \$326,000 (the median assessment in the Town of Guilderland), the estimated tax increase per year for the proposed project based on current information is: **\$103 (\$0.315 cents/\$1,000 assessed full value)**

### 61%

In a January 2018 survey, 61 percent of our community indicated that safe and secure buildings are the highest priority

### 30%

Nearly 30 percent of home buyers list school quality as a deciding factor in their home purchase

### 10.9%

Student test scores climb 10.9 percent when school buildings are improved and modernized

### 9

Nine fundamental building factors influence health and performance: ventilation, air quality, thermal health, moisture, dust and pests, safety and security, water quality, noise, and lighting and views



### SAFE & SECURE

**\$21,192,994** devoted to safety and security improvements centered around fire alarm, public address (PA) and telephone system replacements, added security cameras and shatter-resistant film; as well as roofing and paving replacement, interior, exterior, and site upgrades throughout the district's seven school buildings.



### HEALTHY & COMFORTABLE

**\$9,403,851** primarily for upgrades to heating and ventilation systems and uninsulated window replacement, increasing energy efficiency throughout the district's seven school buildings.



### FUTURE-READY

**\$12,121,255** for technology infrastructure and program upgrades to enhance educational opportunities for students, such as science and technology lab modernization, adaptable mobile classroom furniture and wireless infrastructure upgrades.

## Reducing the wallet impact

### Leveraging state aid

State aid reduces the cost for local taxpayers. Principal and interest costs for eligible capital improvement projects are reimbursed by the state at state-calculated rates. For Guilderland, for every dollar spent, the state will reimburse the district approximately \$0.65 for all eligible expenses.

### Making strategic debt payments

Strategic debt payments minimize the additional local tax impact of a capital improvement project by taking on new debt – through bond financing – as old debt is retired. Layering in new debt as old debt expires helps to lessen the budgetary impact of new debt.

### Capital reserve funds

Districts are able to accumulate savings in a special reserve account to help pay for future capital improvements. Guilderland established a capital reserve fund for this purpose. The balance in the capital reserve fund of \$3,112,600 will be used to lower the cost of borrowing, resulting in savings to district taxpayers.