

"Designing Our Schools' Future"

Facilities Master Planning Process



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we engaging in this Facility Master Planning process?

New Philadelphia Schools need to make decisions about our facilities and our future. We have experienced high growth in student enrollment over the last four years and believe that trend will continue. We have had to turn multiple spaces that were not originally designed for education into educational spaces as a short-term fix. Simply, our facilities are overcrowded. In addition, the current designs of our buildings are not optimal for the safety and security of our students, although we have made strides toward improvements. We must do something and the Facilities Master Planning Process, by engaging the staff, community and parents, will determine the "what."

Does the Board and/or Administration already have a plan?

No. The only decision that we have made is to engage all stakeholders and collaboratively develop a plan for our future.

What options are available?

All. The community engagement process will allow us to hear from our community and develop the best solution that all can unite behind.

Does this mean we are going on the ballot?

Not necessarily. This means that we are working together to develop the best solution for New Philadelphia City Schools. However, the solution may include a ballot issue.

Is the state of Ohio helping us at all?

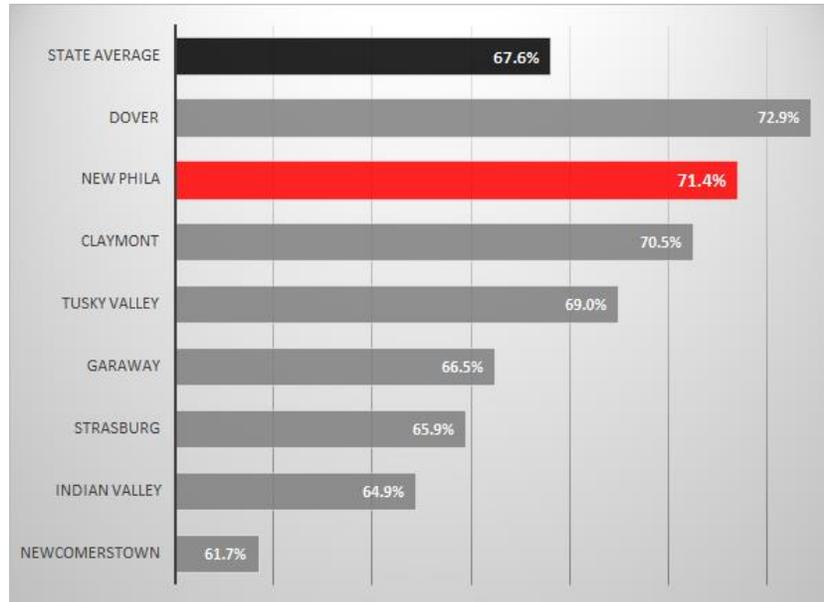
The State of Ohio will contribute about **55%** for a capital facility project that meets their guidelines. Therefore, we need to ensure that we engage all stakeholders and decide collectively what is best for New Philadelphia, for both today and for our future.

How many buildings does the district currently operate and when were they built?

We currently operate eight school buildings: one preschool, five elementary schools, Welty Middle School and New Philadelphia High School. We also operate our Administrative Offices, Warehouse, Bus Garage, Quaker Stadium and the Quaker Dome. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and the GPD Group have both evaluated our current facilities and concluded that our current facilities are overcrowded, lack up-to-date security entrances, and have aging/failing infrastructure that cost more and more every year to maintain.

What percent of funds are spent on classroom instruction and how does that compare?

The New Philadelphia City Schools puts a high priority in allocating funds to have the greatest impact on each child. 71.4% of all funds are spent directly on classroom instruction. The state average is only 67.6%. This puts the district in the top 15th percentile in the state!



What is our cost per pupil and how does that compare?

The district works to be good stewards of the community's tax dollars. Therefore, we operate as effectively and efficiently as possible to ensure each child is provided an excellent and personalized educational experience. The New Philadelphia CSD's cost per pupil in 2018 was \$8,044 while the state average was \$9,353. This puts the district in the lowest 20th percentile in the state!



How many students do not attend the elementary school in their neighborhood?

213 elementary students who live in the New Philadelphia School District attend an elementary school other than their neighborhood school. There are a total of 1,450 current K-5th graders attending NPCSD. Therefore, about 14.7% of our elementary students attend a school other than their neighborhood school. Additional requests are made each year that cannot be granted due to space, staffing, and/or class size.

If we eliminated Open Enrollment and/or Building Transfers would that take care of our overcrowding issues at our elementary schools?

The short answer is no. Currently there are 55 open enrolled students attending one of our five elementary schools. Open enrollment and building transfers requests are closely monitored. This is done annually to ensure no additional staffing or space is required. It is also reviewed to more evenly distribute students to help with class sizes.

Do we have existing space to add more classrooms?

The short answer is no. We do not have empty rooms. Our elementary schools do an amazing job of fully utilizing the space they have. In fact, each elementary school has transformed multiple spaces that were originally designed as non-educational spaces are now used as educational spaces in our elementary schools (e.g. storage areas, end of hallways, stages, locker rooms). We also have 9 modular units at our elementary schools used for instruction. We have added storage sheds since many of the storage areas have been converted to educational spaces. A Preliminary Space Analysis by OHM at least 10% under the recommended square footage for our student population. This is less than optimal for our students learning environments.

Where can I learn more about other Ohio Facilities Construction Commission projects and the OFCC in general?

Here is a [link](#) to the current schools co-funded by the OFCC during the period 2012 – 2018. It gives you an idea of what is out there and the many options we have to best suit our community.

<https://ofcc.ohio.gov/K-12-Portfolio>

The map is searchable by type of school building type, student population, future ready school examples (21C), or by LEED certifications. Once you click on an icon, you will find a summary description of the project, fact sheet, and photo gallery.

