

AKRON

Central School District
In Pursuit of Excellence



PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT

April 2023

Important Dates

TUESDAY
MAY 2ND

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

7:00PM

Edward Allen Auditorium

TUESDAY
MAY 16TH

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND CAPITAL PROJECT REFERENDUM VOTE

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

NOON - 9:00PM

GYM 3

Adjacent to the Upper HS Parking Lot

Voter Qualifications: You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older and a resident within the Akron Central School District for a period of 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee Ballots: Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained from the District Office and must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote. For more information, please contact the District Office at (716)542-5006 or districtclerk@akronk12.org.

Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

James Grant, President
Erik Polkowski, Vice President
Ryan Allen
Heather Cayea
Phillip Kenline
Robert Masse
Kristy Pingitore

Superintendent of Schools

Patrick D. McCabe

www.akronschools.org

A Message from our Board President & Superintendent

Dear Akron Central School District Families and Residents:

The purpose of this mailing is to provide you with details of a proposed capital project for our school district. The scope of the project is based on needs that were identified after more than two years of consideration including a pre-referendum inspection of our facilities by the architectural firm Clark Patterson Lee and Campus Construction Management, a careful review of building conditions, stakeholder input forums, and analysis of feedback from the community stakeholder survey.

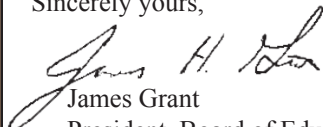
The Board of Education and District administration have determined that the proposed upgrades will provide broad, lasting benefits to our students and the entire community with no additional impact on taxpayers. The District is committed to exercising care and good judgment in managing the resources with which we are entrusted. The proposed project enhances the education experiences for all of our students while being mindful of taxpayers.


Akron Central School District qualifies for 79.32% aid on the cost of the project through New York State Building Aid. The remainder will be funded through the District's Capital Reserve and retiring debt service. Leveraging the NYS Aid is a great example of the Board working to bring our NYS tax dollars back into our community, enabling students, staff, families, and community members to experience a safe environment with up-to-date facilities that can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

We kindly ask you to review the details included in this newsletter and welcome you to ask questions to the Superintendent who may be reached at (716)542-5006 or CIPQuestions@akronk12.org. You are also encouraged to visit our website at www.akronschools.org/CapitalProject to learn more about the project. The District will also host a public information meeting to provide an overview of the project and respond to questions on May 2nd at 7:00 PM in the Edward Allen Auditorium.

The vote will take place on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM in Gym 3 located adjacent to the upper High School parking lot. We appreciate and need your support to maintain our facilities. Please come out and vote.

Sincerely yours,


James Grant
President, Board of Education


Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools



James Grant
President,
Board of Education



Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of
Schools



Proposed Project Scope

Akron High School

- Main corridor interior finish improvements
- Auditorium stage, lighting, and sound improvements
- Gym floor restoration, wall pad replacement, gym partition upgrade, and new mat hoist system
- Interior and exterior door, frame, and hardware upgrades
- New interior way-finding signage
- Information technology infrastructure upgrades
- Public announcement system upgrade
- Service area plumbing and interior finish improvements



Auditorium stage, lighting, and sound improvements

Akron Middle School

- Mechanical heating system upgrades
- Pool dehumidification unit replacement
- Pool ADA lift chair replacement
- Replace classroom window shades
- Public announcement system upgrade



Main High School corridor interior finish improvements

Akron Elementary School

- Select restroom renovations
- Gym floor restoration and wall pad replacement
- Public announcement system upgrade
- Service area plumbing and interior finish improvements

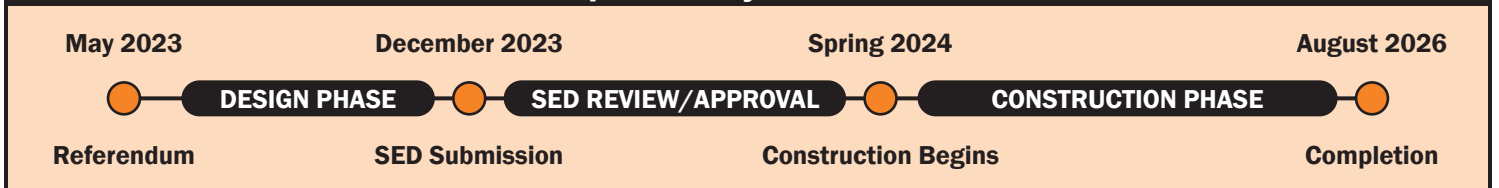


Select elementary restroom renovations

Other Improvements

- Tennis court restoration
- New fence guard weed block system
- Fire alarm and security system improvements at the Maintenance Building

Anticipated Project Timeline





Mechanical heating system upgrades



Pool dehumidification system



Tennis court restoration



Gymnasium floor restoration



Service area plumbing and interior finish improvements



Gym partition upgrade



Gymnasium wall pad replacement



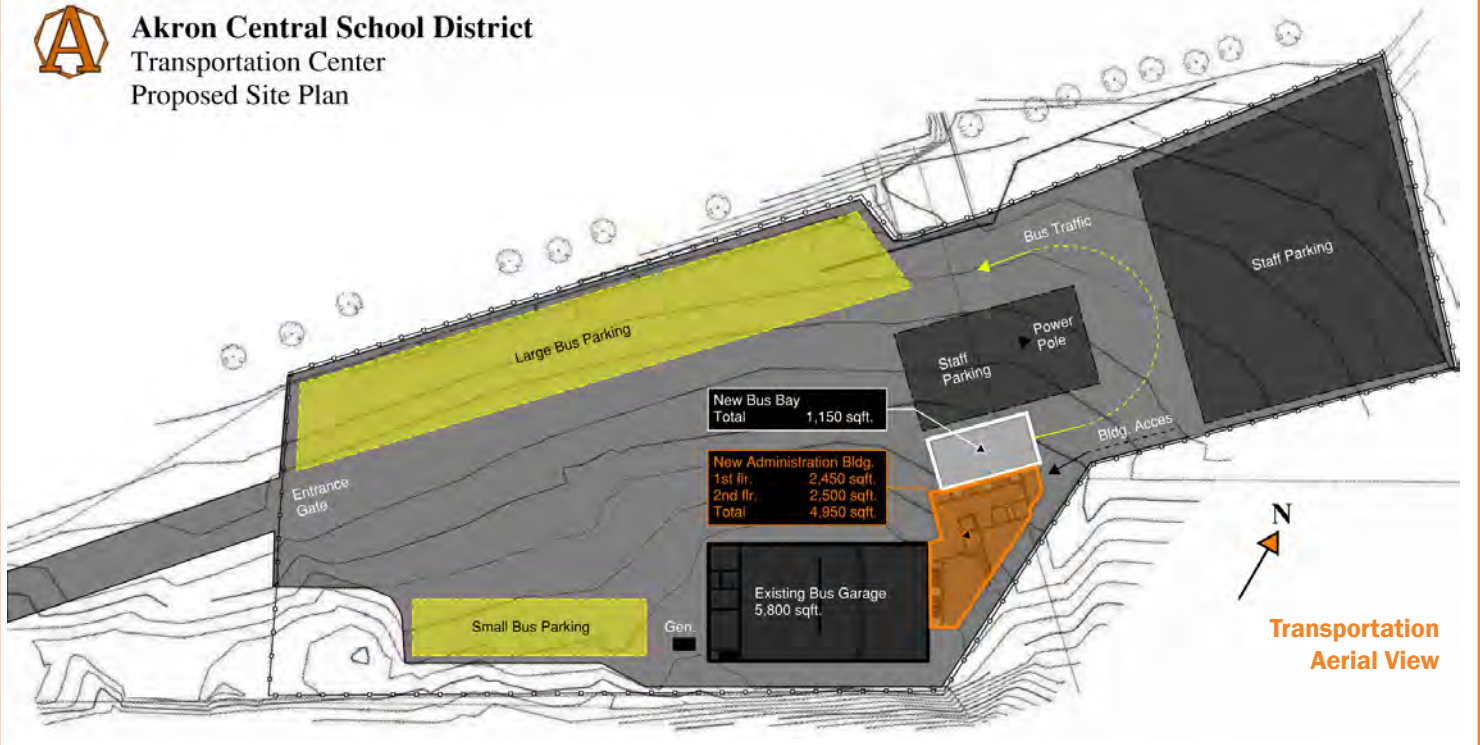
Proposed Project Scope

Transportation Facility

- New employee area, office, and restroom addition
- New bus bay addition
- Renovation of existing building
- Roof replacement over existing building
- Replace overhead doors
- Vehicle lift replacements
- Secure visitor entrance
- Site circulation improvements
- Emergency power enhancements
- Mechanical, electrical and plumbing system improvements
- Other site improvements & provisions for future infrastructure to accommodate electric buses



Akron Central School District
Transportation Center
Proposed Site Plan



Transportation facility heating upgrade



Vehicle lift replacements

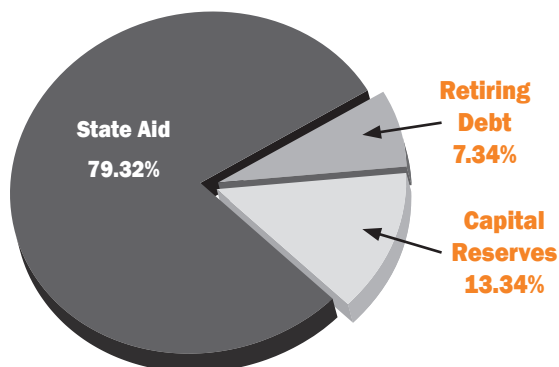
Athletic Complex

- New 8-lane track & field stadium complex
- New 1,100-seat bleacher system with press box
- New athletic complex lighting
- New scoreboard, sound system, and security cameras
- New turf field to provide for football, soccer, field hockey & lacrosse play
- New fencing, sidewalks, pathway lighting, and athletics entranceway
- Increased parking capacity and road modifications
- Renovations to existing concession stand



PROJECT FINANCING

Due to careful project planning, conservative spending, and in consideration of our taxpayers, the proposed project's financial plan would be tax neutral, resulting in no additional tax impact on district residents and businesses. The vast majority of the project would be funded by available State Building Aid. The remaining "local share" would be paid from the District's capital reserve fund, which is designated specifically for capital projects, and the District's retiring debt service, which would offset the tax levy.



A	PROJECT COST	\$29,829,634
B	Estimated Interest Payment on Bonds	\$8,221,984
C	Total Cost	\$38,051,618
D	District Capital Reserves	(\$5,077,000)
E	Total State Aid	(\$30,182,528)
F	Net Cost (C-D-E)	\$2,792,090
G	Retiring Debt Service	(\$2,792,090)
H	Net Tax increase (F-G)	\$0



Proposed Project Scope

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why is the District proposing a capital project now?

A. In addition to the needs described in this newsletter for our facilities, the State Aid available for the project is at a current level that makes these needed repairs and additions to our campus affordable.

Q. How was the proposed capital project developed?

A. Over the past several years, the District administration and Board of Education have been assessing current and future capital improvement needs and the means to responsibly achieve them. During the development of the 2019 capital project, a number of needs, including improvements to the athletics facilities, were identified, but ultimately not included in the scope of work that was completed. In addition to these and other previously identified needs, the District analyzed information for building condition assessments, user group feedback, responses from the community stakeholder survey, and recommendations from licensed architects and a construction management firm to develop the project's scope, delivery timeline, and financing options to create a reasonable and responsible project that would result in no additional increase to the local tax levy for our community.

Q. What needs does the project address?

A. The proposed project seeks to address building functionality and preservation needs, health and safety upgrades, and academic and athletic program enhancements. The proposed project includes upgrades to the public address system, auditorium lighting and sound enhancements, restrooms, gymnasiums, and the pool, and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing improvements. Additionally, the project also includes a new employee area, office, and restroom addition at the transportation facility, with modifications to the existing building for code compliance. An exciting highlight of the project is the construction of a new multi-sport athletic complex with an 8-lane track and field stadium, turf field, LED lighting, scoreboard, parking lot and roadway improvements, and renovations to the existing concession stand. Finally, the project will allow for needed improvements in the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and structural components within the campus.



Q. Why is the District proposing upgrades to the transportation building?

A. The District seeks to ensure safe and reliable transportation for students, effectively and efficiently address the mechanical and service needs of the bus fleet, preserve the existing assets, and provide an appropriate facility for the transportation staff. The upgrades to the transportation department will address the maintenance bay area and storage needs, bus bay addition, replace mechanical equipment that is near end-of-life, and provide proper restrooms and work areas for building users.

Q. Why is the District proposing a new athletic complex?

A. The District reviewed our entire outdoor athletic and physical education programs to ensure the greatest return on investment for our taxpayers. After many discussions with consultants and stakeholders, the Board of Education agreed that installing a multi-sport, synthetic turf field would be a fiscally responsible improvement that would also support the District's commitment to providing equity among our student athletic teams, additional outdoor physical education space and expanded opportunities for community use. The current football field and surrounding track have inherent design flaws that compromise student and spectator safety, as well as overall functionality. Specifically, due to limited space in the area, the sidelines are extremely narrow resulting in players sustaining injuries when they are tackled and land on the track surface. The seating area and entrance walkway pose a safety risk to spectators. The existing press box and concession building is not up to current building codes nor is it suitable for restrooms or functional entry and egress. The track itself is an irregular shape in that the corners are smaller while the straightaways are longer than most tracks. The rain and snowmelt that are hallmarks of the Western NY region also limit the ability of our physical education classes, student-athletes, and community to safely use our grass athletic field in wet and muddy conditions. This results in many home-based competitions being moved to the visiting team's facility or rescheduled when possible. Most of the districts in our region have already upgraded to synthetic turf fields or are planning to. Our students are at a disadvantage since they cannot practice in the same field conditions that they compete on as a visiting team.

Q. What is included in the proposed multi-sport athletic complex?

A. The proposed multi-sport, synthetic turf athletic complex would include an 8-lane track with field event areas. The field itself would be marked for football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and girl's flag football. The new complex would be used by students for physical education programs and athletic programs, and would also be available for community use. The plan includes increased parking, stadium seating, and upgrades to the concession area and restrooms. New LED lighting would also be included to increase visibility and allow for safe playing time to extend into the evening.

Continued on next page.



What to Expect on the Ballot

PROPOSITION NO. 4 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, 2023

YES NO

Shall the following resolution be adopted and approved?

RESOLVED, that (a) the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Akron Central School District, Erie, Genesee and Niagara Counties, New York (the “District”) is hereby authorized to undertake a “Capital Improvements Project, 2023” (the “Project”) consisting of the reconstruction, rehabilitation and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements, upgrades and additions to various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof) to implement various health, safety, accessibility and Code compliance measures and various other measures that are included and generally described in (but are not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this Proposition, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$29,829,634; (b) the Board is authorized to expend or apply toward the Project the entire remaining balance (which stands at approximately \$5,080,355), plus any additional interest earned, from the District’s Capital Improvements Reserve Fund that was established in May of 2017, with such fund then to be terminated; (c) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed \$24,749,279 to finance the balance of the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; (d) in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in an aggregate principal amount that shall not exceed \$24,749,279, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations as the same shall become due and payable; and (e) New York State Building Aid funds (as well as Native American Building Aid funds) expected to be received by the District are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an Environmental Assessment Form has been completed for all of the anticipated work involved in the Project, which constitutes a Type I action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), a thorough review of the Project’s potential environmental impacts has been undertaken, it has been found that the Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment, and a reasoned elaboration of the SEQRA review and findings has been provided in a Negative Declaration.

Q. What is the total cost of this proposed project and how will it affect my taxes?

A. The total cost of the project is \$29,829,634. The majority of the project will be paid for using available State Building Aid. The District’s capital reserve fund, which is designated to be used exclusively for capital improvement projects, will pay part of the “local share.” The remainder of the project’s cost will be offset by retiring debt service payments from previous capital projects, resulting in a “tax neutral” financial plan. There will be no additional increase to the tax levy as it relates to this project.

Q. Isn’t State Aid just my tax dollars too?

A. Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature has given all districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars to enhance their communities through school building improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to keep some of those tax dollars in our own community, working to improve the educational setting for our children and the public.

Q. When will the work take place?

A. It’s expected that the State Education Department’s approval for the project’s initial phase would be received by early 2024, allowing work on the building renovations and transportation facility to begin that summer. Work on the athletic complex would begin in 2025. To maximize student safety and minimize program disruption, the bulk of the project’s construction activity would take place during the summer months and while school is not in session, with final completion anticipated by August 2026.

Q. What if the referendum does not pass?

A. The critical safety requirements and building preservation needs would still be absolutely necessary. If the referendum does not pass, many of these requirements would still need to be addressed. A bond vote allows the District to receive partial reimbursement of the project’s cost through State Building Aid. Without the State’s aid, the funds for any required work would have to come from the annual budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. Alternatively, the District could modify the proposed scope of work, and present it to the community at a future date while bearing the likely risk of increased costs and uncertain state aid levels.

Q. Where can I find out more about the capital project?

A. A Public Information Meeting with an opportunity to ask questions about the project will be held on Tuesday, May 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Edward Allen Auditorium. Project information is also available at www.akronschools.org/CapitalProject.

The webpage will be periodically updated with answers to additional questions from our district residents. You may submit your questions via email to CIPQuestions@akronk12.org or at (716)542-5006.

Akron Central School

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www.akronschools.org

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**TUESDAY
MAY 2ND**

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION
MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 2, 2023
7:00PM**

Edward Allen Auditorium

*Save the
Dates*



**TUESDAY
MAY 16TH**

**ANNUAL
BUDGET VOTE AND
CAPITAL PROJECT
REFERENDUM VOTE**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023
NOON - 9:00PM**

GYM 3
Adjacent to the Upper HS Parking Lot

Akron Mission Statement

The mission of the Akron Central School District, a learning-centered community dedicated to the dreams of our students, is to ensure that each student realizes his or her unique human potential and contributes positively to society, through a system characterized by:

- Valuing the unique gifts and dreams of each person
- Developing all dimensions of each human being
- Advancing the knowledge, skills, and wisdom of each student
- Nurturing and respecting the dignity of each human being
- Cooperatively working to continuously create new realities

Scan the code for
more information

