



# **FACILITIES BOND**

**COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Legislative Testimony March 31, 2026

Amy Minor, Superintendent

George Trieb, Chief Financial and Operations Manager



---

# OUR TOWN, OUR SCHOOLS, OUR FUTURE.

School District Facilities Bond Overview

[csdbond.org](https://csdbond.org)

# CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION HISTORY

---

**UMS: 1954**

Renovations: 1969, 1988, 1989, 2000

**PPS: 1956**

Renovations: 1980, 1989, 2000

**MBS: 1962**

Renovations: 1999

**CMS: 1968**

Renovations: None



**CHS: 1974**

Renovations: 2014 Science, 2016 PAC

# LONG TERM FACILITIES PLANNING



The age and needs of the school facilities require a greater investment than the annual budget can address.

The school board begins the process of developing a long-term facilities plan outside of the annual operational budget.

# LONG TERM FACILITIES PLANNING



In light of Act 166, Superintendent Waters launches the Early Education Center Committee.

The committee researches how to best meet the needs of our youngest learners in grades PK-2.

# LONG TERM FACILITIES PLANNING



The board continued to research and gather data through traffic and septic studies and general facility assessments.

The board prepares to place a facilities bond on the November 2020 ballot to address the needs of PK-5.

That timeline is paused as the community responds and recovers from the impact of COVID.

# LONG TERM FACILITIES PLANNING



- The Board contracts with the Center for Effective School Operations (CESO) on a community engagement process with students, employees, families, and community members.
- Community Themes:
  - Appreciation for small neighborhood schools
  - A desire for age-appropriate environment for preschool
  - Traffic and parking challenges
  - Limited space
  - Accessibility and need for safety improvements
  - CMS building is perceived as unwelcoming



# BOND GOALS FACILITY CHALLENGES

---

## Safety and Security

## Aging Infrastructure

- Roofs
- Windows
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Septic
- HVAC

## Learning Spaces

- Preschool
- Multipurpose Room: Gym, Cafe
- Space Needs





---

# **BOND DETAILS AND TAXPAYER IMPACT**

School District Facilities Bond Overview

[csdbond.org](https://csdbond.org)



# PROJECT APPROVALS

**Vermont Agency of Education:** A review of the project submittals has confirmed that minimum square footages have been met for all program and service spaces in the proposed designs.

The Colchester School District Preliminary **Application is approved, *October 14, 2024,*** via Bob Donohue, AOE School Facilities Program Manager

**Colchester Voters:** Approved ***November 5, 2024,*** on the ballot



# 16 V.S.A. § 4001

Under Title 16 V.S.A. § 4001, which defines terms used within Vermont’s education funding system, subdivision (6)(B) currently provides that:

“For all bonds approved by voters prior to **July 1, 2024**, voter-approved bond payments toward principal and interest shall not be included in ‘education spending’ for purposes of calculating excess spending pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12).”

This language covers the Winooski, Fairfax and Burlington bond, but **excludes** the **Colchester bond** which is just **four months** outside of the date.



# BOND DETAILS & TIMELINE

Based on detailed estimates, the Colchester School District is seeking approval for a **30-year, \$115 million** bond to complete essential facility improvements at all five of its schools.

The project will be done in phases from **2025-2030**.

1. Porters Point School: construction began Fall 2025
2. Union Memorial School: construction begins June 2026
3. Colchester Middle School: construction begins June 2027
4. MBS and CHS: TBD



# REPAYMENT SCHEDULE

	<b>FY'26</b>	<b>FY'27</b>	<b>FY'28</b>	<b>FY'29</b>
Spending per Pupil	\$14,403	\$15,747	\$17,546	\$19,108
<b>Bond Debt (P&amp;I)</b>	<b>\$1,614,118</b>	<b>\$3,868,318</b>	<b>\$7,365,294</b>	<b>\$9,325,662</b>
Local Ed spending per Pupil	\$13,961	\$14,671	\$15,497	\$16,514
Bond Debt % (P&I)	2.49%	5.51%	9.53%	11.17%

**Bond payments will begin to decline in FY'30**



# OVERALL BUDGETING IMPACT

- Colchester historically has had per pupil spending well below the statewide average.
- CSD has consistently been one of the lowest spending districts in Chittenden County. Typically the lowest, or second lowest.
- Inclusion of bond debt will significantly increase our PPS since our bond is currently not excluded per 16 V.S.A. § 4001

# Porters Point School Renovation to Date



---

**OUR TOWN,  
OUR SCHOOLS,  
OUR FUTURE.**

Any Questions?

