

Nottingham School Building Renovation and Addition FAQs

1. Why is a school addition being proposed?

There is not enough core classroom space for our students and our programs. Multiple classrooms do not meet state space guidelines, such as the Kindergarten classrooms and music room. The computer lab was repurposed to provide other services, computer classes are now on a cart, health class is on a cart, maintenance closets have been renovated to provide student services, and some students are receiving instruction in the hallway. There is no classroom space to provide enrichment or a world language program.

2. What is the project going to cost?

The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for this project is \$6,125,490. The NH Municipal Bond Bank (NHMBB) provided the School Board options for a 10-year (1.5%), 15-year (2.0%), and 20-year (2.5%) bond term. NHMBB indicates that these are conservative rates, as actual rates have been lower than anticipated. The estimated 2nd-year tax impact for a \$300,000 home value is \$201 calculated using the 2.0% for a 15-year term. Tax impact costs are expected to decline each year over the term of the loan along with the declining principal. (Note: the 1st-year tax impact includes interest only, to which impact fees may be applied to lower the tax impact.)

3. Why shouldn't we wait until next year, when the cost of materials may be lower?

Waiting will not necessarily guarantee we will pay less. Interest rates are at an all-time low, and prices are anticipated to level out in the fall. There are contingencies built into the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP); an escalation contingency and an estimating contingency, that together are approximately 7.5% of the project costs. There are also ways we can manage costs, such as pushing the start date of the project or making a substitution of materials.

4. Why aren't you updating the roof and heating systems?

The current HVAC systems are regularly maintained and some of the systems have been upgraded already. The new addition will have a new HVAC system and the current systems can maintain the current building. The roof replacement schedule is part of the District's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and we continue to look into cost saving measures such as solar energy.

5. How much will it cost to maintain a new building?

The new addition is designed to be energy efficient; therefore, the percentage increase in utilities is expected to be less than the percentage of square footage we are adding. Building facilities administration has determined that the new addition can be maintained with current staffing levels.

6. Did the School Board evaluate different options? Why can't the town hall building be used?

The Facilities Committee and School Board have looked at multiple options to address the space deficiencies at our school. The four classrooms and foyer at the back of the town hall, that are not being used, need significant repair. The roof is leaking and it has caused extensive damage to that part of the building.

7. Did the board apply for building aid? How much can we expect to get from building aid? When will we know if we will receive building aid?

The School Board applied for State building aid and will find out later this year if we will receive it. Nottingham is eligible to receive approximately 30% of the project costs. The Warrant Article includes the entire cost of the project, therefore if building aid is not awarded the cost will not increase.

8. Why do the current labs need to be updated?

The current labs are original to the building and are now outdated. Maintenance has worked over the years to maintain them; however, areas such as the cabinet doors are inoperable and the lamination is lifting.

9. The school supports a multi-tiered approach to education which should support classroom instruction and reduce student pull outs, why does the school need individual instructional space?

Nottingham School has restructured instructional models to provide personalized learning. The school has gone from being a School In Need of Improvement to a school in the top 20% in the state, with a middle school ranked number 5 in the state. Nottingham School is a state model for Response to Instruction (RtI) which is an individualized approach to teaching and learning. This model requires space to provide small group and individual instruction. Today, as a state model, Nottingham School provides training and advice to other schools who visit to learn about our success.

10. The school claims that the district has increased or flat enrollment, why does the school need more space? The pandemic enrollment numbers are as low as when the school was first built why does the school need an addition?

Nottingham School has space needs now with our current enrollment. Our town has grown significantly over the years and our enrollment has mirrored that growth. The steady enrollment figures coupled with the increase in personalized learning programs, adoption of full day Kindergarten, and addition of new programs, has led us to the current space deficiencies.

11. What are the student benefits of an addition? What improvements to instruction can we expect as a result of the addition? How will students benefit academically?

All students will benefit from the renovations and addition. The computer lab will be restored, and all students will be able to have expanded computer and technology classes. Additional classroom space would allow the opportunity to provide programs such as World Language and Enrichment classes. The current Science labs will be upgraded, a 6th grade science lab will be added, we will have kindergarten classrooms that all meet State standards, our Health program will have a classroom, we will have necessary storage, office, and instructional spaces. In addition, we will have the ability to provide onsite preschool rather than paying \$180,000 to educate our preschool students elsewhere.

12. For much of the past year students have been educated remotely. When do you think the school will be fully utilized again?

Nottingham School is currently fully utilized. The Nottingham School Board and building administrators made a priority of returning students to in-school instruction early in the school year. Students returned to in person learning from the start of the 2020 school year, and in person 5 days a week in October. Remote learning continued to be offered to a few students that were not able to return during the pandemic. The School Board anticipates returning to a full in-school model in September 2021.