

# REFERENDUM 2023 EARLY LEARNING CENTER

VOTE MAY 16, 2023



**DID YOU KNOW?** The size of this Early Learning Center will be equivalent to almost two elementary schools combined! This building is a major asset and game changer.

## ABOUT:

5 Maxwell Drive, a property donated to the district by Don and Beverly Greene & Family, is a 150,000 sq. ft. building, of which 110,000 sq. ft. will be completely gutted in accordance with New York State Education Department facilities/building standards in order to become an early learning center. The Maxwell Drive facility answers the district's need for space to accommodate full-day Kindergarten, having the capacity to accommodate over 700 children. Additionally, portions of the building will house alternative education programs and allow for the centralization of district operations.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

- Provide upwards of **42** classrooms for kindergarten and potentially pre-K purposes.
- Free up **24** additional classrooms between the eight elementary schools, reducing congestion and allowing for future growth.
- Potentially frees up spaces in the Middle School and High School East and West, for classroom purposes.
- Expand capacity for alternative education programming, from tutoring to special education, to college collaborations.
- Consolidate various district operations and warehouse storage.

## PROPOSED REFERENDUM AMOUNT FOR THIS PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED \$55M

Cost to build 42 new classrooms from scratch, estimated at \$93M+



Cost to build 42 classrooms at 5 Maxwell, estimated at \$55M+



Cost Savings Due to Donation: Approx. \$38M+

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TAXPAYERS AND HOW WILL WE MITIGATE THE IMPACT?

### ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT

Less than 25 cents (\$0.25) per 1,000 taxable assessed value.

### STATE BUILDING AID

Approximately \$25M of funds borrowed to be reimbursed by State Building Aid.

### USE OF RESERVES

Use of Capital Project Reserves of \$3M to offset amount to be borrowed.

### DEBT SERVICE

30 year bonding spread allows for smoothing of debt payments, first full payment in 2026.



## ECONOMIES OF SCALE

### WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGES?

- Minimize or eliminate certain recurring operational costs (ex: warehouse lease expenses - \$135K/year).
- Potential Kindergarten transition aid to offset operating costs for initial years.
- Potential use of state funding for Universal Pre-K to support operations of applicable classes.
- Potential proceeds from the sale of the existing District Office.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS REFERENDUM:

- (42) 900 square-foot classrooms
- (42) bathrooms in each classroom
- (1) large library (1,900 sf)
- (2) gym stations (3,744 sf)
- (1) extra large cafeteria (2,724 sf)
- (2) large multipurpose spaces
- ADA and other compliance
- (52) rescue windows
- (3) new exits and stairwells
- New PA system
- New LED lighting
- Upgrades to fire alarms
- Upgrades to HVAC
- New data and electrical
- New plumbing for the classroom bathrooms

### ESTIMATED TIMELINE FOR EARLY LEARNING CENTER:

**Design:** 5/2023 - 5/2024

**Permitting:** 5/2024 - 9/2024\*

**Bidding:** 9/2024 - 11/2024

**Construction:** 11/2024 - 1/2026\*\*

\*Based on current SED review times.  
Subject to change.

\*\*Final completion based on lead time and construction bidding.

### VOTE!

When: May 16, 2023

Where: Gowana Middle School Gym

Time: 7:00 am - 9:00 pm

**MORE INFO CAN BE FOUND AT  
[SHENET.ORG/CAPITAL-PROJECTS](https://shenet.org/capital-projects)**

### OTHER REFERENDUMS YOU'LL BE VOTING ON:

#### 2023-24 School Budget

Proposed Budget: \$206,611,477

- Preserves school programs and services, provides for key enhancements, and keeps the tax implications to a minimum.
- Yields a tax levy **below the Tax Cap** and maintains a relatively flat impact on local taxpayers.
- Positions the district to effectively leverage federal dollars and avoid a funding cliff beyond 2024.

#### Electrification of Buses & Replacement Vehicles

Not to exceed \$2,450,646.08

- (4) Electric buses
- (1) Level 3 charger for shop
- (5) 28-passenger buses