



# EMERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND REFERENDUM OCTOBER 2, 2018

## KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS SAFE AND ACADEMICS STRONG

*Based on years of community-led input, Emerson Public Schools aim to modernize all schools while increasing security for our children and staff. Voters will have the chance to do that at the polls on October 2. The proposed updates and the current financial implications, all detailed below, make this the right time for a bond referendum.*

### SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

- Remodel the high school's entrance to create an enclosed, secure vestibule
- Renovate Memorial's entrances and improve safety at other buildings, including fire warning systems
- Eliminate trailers at Memorial, and bring the Pre-K classes into Memorial School
- Reposition the Memorial playground to create an enclosed recreation area

### EDUCATIONAL SPACE

- Move students and instruction off the stage and out of the basement and into appropriate classrooms at both Memorial and Villano Elementary Schools
- At Memorial, discontinue the use of trailers, build nine new classrooms, and modify the former gym into instructional space to include a new media center, art, and world language classrooms. No more 'cart-based' teacher instruction
- At Villano, add instructional space and shift the third grade to Memorial in order to open instructional space, and remove classes from the school basement
- At EJSHS, build full-sized science labs, and convert decades-old lab space into classrooms
- Districtwide, install climate control systems, including air conditioning, to all new and renovated spaces

### EXTERIOR REDESIGN

- Reposition Memorial playground to create an enclosed area to help keep our youngest students safe
- Both Memorial and EJSHS will have newly redesigned entrances, adding to both the security of the building as well as its aesthetic appeal
- Improve traffic flow and parking at Memorial

### AFTER-SCHOOL SPACE

- Design a new multi-purpose room/gymnasium at Memorial for use by organizations and recreation groups after school and/or weekends

The total cost of the renovations and upgrades are estimated at \$13,368,446. With voter approval, estimated state aid will contribute about \$2,389,062 over the life of the bond, reducing the local share to \$10,979,384. This school improvement plan would have a tax impact estimated at \$23.00 per month (\$276 per year) for a home assessed at the borough average of \$439,049.

## STATE FUNDING BOOST FOR EMERSON

The state helps schools pay for certain renovation projects **ONLY** when they are funded by a voter-approved referendum. There's **NO** help for those same projects when they are funded by the school's operating budget.

**Voter approval means Emerson would get**

▷ **\$2,389,062**  
in state aid for these proposed projects.

**That Debt Service Aid would reduce the local cost of this improvement plan to \$10,979,384.**

▷ **Emerson doesn't usually get that much state aid.**

In addition to local taxes, Emerson residents pay state taxes into a pot that distributes revenue based on a complicated, per-pupil formula. That formula favors districts with greater financial need. But Debt Service Aid is different: It's given by project rather than by pupil, and it's not given by financial need.

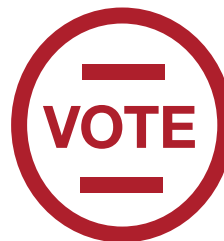
▷ **This bond referendum gives Emerson voters a chance to claim a share of state funding from a pot they pay into, but usually get just a small percentage.**

about  
**\$13.4**  
million

Project costs to repair and renovate Emerson Public Schools

**TUESDAY, OCT. 2**

Vote by Mail applications are at [www.emersonschools.org/referendum](http://www.emersonschools.org/referendum), along with links to voter registration forms (due by Sept. 11), poll sites and times.



## PRESSING NEEDS

An in-depth analysis of the 2015–2020 District Strategic Plan, including a comprehensive review of school facilities, revealed pressing needs for Emerson Public Schools. A desire to modernize our schools, remove classes from basements and school stages, and increase school security were key factors that guided the citizen-led committee to recommend that the district propose a bond referendum.

The committee review clearly showed that Emerson schools need extensive renovations and upgrades to stay academically competitive. Necessary new building, repairs and renovations serve to bolster not only the school system but also local home values. Alongside supporting the homeowner, Emerson's students would benefit from an ongoing investment in their education.

Following the presentation of the citizen-led facilities review, the Emerson Board of Education reviewed the recommendations, consulted with the district architect and financial consultants, and, in order to be fiscally responsible, significantly reduced the proposal to prioritize the most necessary improvements.

As a result, the Emerson Board of Education is proud to present to the community a bond referendum that supports Emerson's students, their families and the entire community.

**For more information: [www.emersonschools.org/referendum](http://www.emersonschools.org/referendum)**



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