

BUILDING PROJECT

Q&A



The PHASE II part of the Colebrook School building project from 2001 has been approved for building aid pending state budgeting. The PHASE II addition meets the needs for the new North Point CTE Center approved for Colebrook in 2022 and meets the needs of the high school student population and staff. The anticipated building aid is 9.8 million dollars saving 60% of the total cost. Find answers to frequently asked questions below.

Q: Why did the district vacate the old Colebrook Academy?

The old building was unsafe due to mold, poor air quality, lack of security, and it was not ADA compliant. The annual savings for moving the high school students to the elementary school is approximately \$500,000 per year.

Q: Why an addition if population is less?

Our school population has been steady or increasing over the past five years. There were 126 high school students in the CA building the year it closed in 2019. This year we have 124. The old CA building had 12 classrooms, so adding the 124 to the current building at 20 students per class requires 6 classrooms. The new building project adds back six classrooms for high school and gives elementary/middle school back their necessary space.

Q: Why a new gymnasium?

Currently, there are 14 elementary gym classes each week. Middle and high school students have gym classes four periods per day. There are practices or games in the gym until 9:00pm every night from November to March for elementary, middle, and high school basketball. The cost of the gym with 60% building aid is \$1.5 million and is included in the cost of the building project.

Q: What will the tax impact be?

High/Average Tax Impact - Per day based on assessed property value				
	100K	150K	200K	250K
Highest year	\$1.11	\$1.67	\$2.23	\$3.03
Average year	0.84	\$1.26	\$1.67	\$2.09

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PHASE II of the building project serves our current student population. However, more high school students in the area could be accommodated in the new Academy and North Point CTE Center. We currently welcome students from Columbia, Stewartstown, Errol, Milan and NEK Choice Schools in Vermont. Serving the students in our region is a goal of the school board.

Q: Has the amount of staff increased?

Our school staff increases in proportion to our enrollment. The staff has not increased in the last few years due to the integration of high school and CTE programs in our existing high school.

Q: How does School to Work Compare to CTE Programs?

School to work plays an important role in workforce preparation. The North Point Career and Technical Education programs combine competencies, college credits through partnerships with NH Colleges and universities and industry based credentials which align with jobs in our area. Students with a CTE credential are well placed to pursue a career or enroll in college in: Education, Health Sciences, Technology, Automotive, and Culinary/Hospitality.

Q: What will be the annual cost to operate the new addition?

We are building the new addition with a focus on improved energy efficiency and reduced maintenance costs. This is due to changes to LED lighting, windows, heating controls and updated Heating, Ventilation, and Controls (HVAC) system. Our engineering analysis confirms that the new addition will not add additional operating costs to the budget.

Q: Does the building budget include furnishings/equipment?

Yes the building project includes the cost of furnishings and equipment for the new classrooms and labs.

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The building addition and renovation project, upon approval from the voters is expected to be completed in fall, 2025. Information concerning the project is on the website here: (https://csd.sau7.org/proposed_colebrook_academy_and_cte_center). We have many opportunities for grants available to us which we can only access following the approval of the project. Voters will consider the project at the Annual School District Meeting on March 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm. You must register to vote in advance, attend in person and vote by paper ballot at the meeting.

Q: How large is the addition?

The addition is 28,300 square feet and includes six classrooms, the North Point Career and Technical Education Center, and the new gymnasium. After four years, the Tech building lease will expire and we will have no physical space to provide our CTE Program.

Q: What renovation projects are included in the project?

The Building Project includes renovations in the amount of \$1.3 million dollars. Sixty percent (60%) of these necessary repairs will be funded by state building aid. The repairs include: replace existing windows, replace septic and grinder pumps, address flashing issues, replace light fixtures, add AC to IT room, replace boiler controls, and add baseboard heating to music/consumer science rooms.

Q: Why do we need a building expansion?

When the district closed the academy in 2019, consolidating created a deficit of 12 high school classrooms. The new Colebrook Academy and our state approved Career and Technical Education Center would include dedicated high school areas, and provide space needed to meet the academic and vocational needs of our students into the future.

Q: What will happen if the project is not approved in March?

These are necessary improvements and need for building expansion. If the project is not approved in March, 2023, the town will lose \$9.85 million dollars in state aid. Without building aid, the district will need to pursue these repairs and additions at 100% cost. If we do not approve the project, we will lose the funding. The State is investing in Colebrook - our students deserve this.