Clover School District Capital Projects and Bond Referendum FAQs

What does the bond referendum package include?

The 2021 Capital Improvement Plan includes, Elementary School #8, 9th Grade Campus conversion to Middle School #3, High School #2, renovations to Clover High School, additions to Bethany Elementary School, and a replacement of the Technology Warehouse to an Innovation and Technology Center.

Is the Clover School District growing?

The district remains a fast growing and desirable place to live in York County. For the 2021-2022 school year, Clover School District was projected to start with a student enrollment of 8,571, student enrollment in PowerSchool as of 8/9/2021 is currently over 9,000 students. By 2025-2026 the district is conservatively projected to grow to 9,735 students; however, it is likely the district will exceed that projection. Prior to the 2021-2022 school year enrollment grew by 2-3% annually which translates into 250-300 students per year. In the town of Clover there are 373 approved new home permits to be completed by 2027. In the unincorporated areas of Lake Wylie and areas outside of Clover on the western side of the district there are 2,878 approved new home permits to be completed by 2027. Based on historical growth from the prior ten years, new construction in the district has produced a student generation rate of 0.431 students per single-family home and .206 students for multifamily homes.

Why is there a need for another bond referendum at this time?

The Clover School District community successfully passed bond referendums in 2007 and 2014 to address growth. Increased student enrollment impacts school capacity and brings the need for additional classrooms. The greatest portion of this bond request addresses growth and the need for new schools and district buildings. Current capacity constraints exist at multiple schools. Oakridge Elementary School will be at critical capacity (greater than 95%) as early as 2022-2023. Oakridge Middle School will be at critical capacity (greater than 95%) as early as 2023-2024 and at Clover Middle School as early as 2024-2025. If the bond is passed, there will be a new elementary school in 2024-2025 to alleviate pressure at Crowders Creek Elementary and Oakridge Elementary. There will be a new middle school in 2025-2026 to address concerns at Clover Middle and Oakridge Middle.

High school enrollment in 2021-2022 is projected to start at 2,492. By 2025-2026 high school enrollment is estimated to be 2,791 students in 9th-12th grade. In the 2014 bond referendum the district told the community that it would begin to address the size of the high school when enrollment reached 2,300 students. This bond includes a new high school that will open in 2025-2026.

How does the impact fee help the taxpayers in the bond referendum?

If successful on September 18th, the bond resolution will allow the district to borrow up to $197 million for the proposed projects. The district will not borrow 100% of those funds at one time. The money will be borrowed in two or three separate draws. On the final draw, the district will apply all impact fee money accumulated to that point and reduce the overall amount that is borrowed for the projects.

Example: The district plans to borrow 197 million. If on the final draw two million dollars has been collected through impact fees, the final amount that the district would borrow is 195 million.
Where will the new schools be located?

The new elementary school and the new high school will be located on the property that the district owns on Daimler Blvd. The newly renovated middle school will be located at 1555 State Highway 55E.

Why is there a need for a replacement Technology Warehouse? Why in Clover?

In 2019 Clover School District completed a long-range facilities assessment of all buildings in the district. At present, the district has an extremely dated technology facility that puts stakeholder investments (laptops, iPads etc.) at risk. The building needs upgrades for fire alarms, air conditioning and other requirements that total $1.2 million. Additionally, the district does not have sufficient space for special education staff and services, teacher professional development, and district functions (including Teacher of the Year and Retirement Banquets, Class Reunions, Prom, or large board meetings). During the bond discussions from May 2019 through May 2020, the board determined that a multiuse facility to address the above needs would be a better long-term investment than fixing an old warehouse that could only be used for one purpose. The placement of this facility in Clover allows for a central location for the entire community and district staff. Having a local meeting, conference, and event space reduces what the district spends to rent facilities, keeps the tax dollars in our community, and provides a venue for the culinary arts class to gain real-world field experiences in hospitality and dining.

Why are there renovations projects in this bond referendum?

There are three schools targeted for renovations as part of the district’s ten-year facility study. The first renovation converts the current 9th Grade Campus back to a middle school to address the critical capacity shortfalls due to growth. This building will need a new traffic pattern separate from the high school, additional athletic fields to accommodate middle school sports, and a band and chorus wing separate from the high school. Converting this building back to a middle school will save the taxpayers approximately $50 million dollars because the district will not have to build a new middle school. The second renovation addresses the needs at Clover High School to ensure comparable facilities to the new high school and address much needed maintenance issues with stairwells, bathrooms, H-VAC systems, and the cafeteria. The third renovation addresses space issues at Bethany Elementary School to add science labs comparable to those in the newer schools in the district, additional classrooms, collaborative space, and a larger cafeteria.

Why was a second high school not included in the last bond?

In 2013-2014 the projections indicated that a second high school was not necessary for 10 years. The school district continues to be exemplary fiscal stewards by planning 10-15 years out between campaigns allowing the borrowing to be timed with need which may be influenced by growth or reduced requirements over the course of a decade. The repurposing of Clover Middle School to a standalone NGC allowed for needed student space in the high school while retrofitting the NGC for a 21st century education.

Why move away from a standalone 9th Grade Campus? Wasn’t that a core part of the last bond?

Yes, it was. The standalone provided much needed space for the high school and a full renovation of the old Clover Middle School for the NGC. This was fiscally responsible of the district since, at the time, a new high school was not needed. It allowed a 10-year growth pattern to evolve and now will be incorporated as a fully separated wing in both Clover High School as well as the new high school.
Is there any anticipated impact to graduation rates by re-incorporating the 9th grade into the high school campuses?

Both Clover High School and the new high school will have designated locations for students in the 9th grade to provide them with the dedicated staff that promotes success in the 9th grade year.

Will the integrated 9th Grade wing have the same dedicated staff and teacher ratios as the standalone 9th Grade Campus?

Yes, 9th grade students will continue to have their own dedicated staff within a section of the building that allows the acclimation to high school within a group of peers.

How will the addition of a new high school, middle school, and elementary school impact redistricting?

At present this information is not known. The growth that the district is experiencing on both the Lake Wylie and Clover ends of the district will need to be monitored through 2024-25 to make the best decisions on where to draw lines for a middle school and high school opening in 2025-2026.

What grades will move to the second high school?

Will my rising senior’s class be split? An exact determination of which grades will begin the 2025-26 school year has not been made; however, the rising senior class will remain intact and not be split.

Will there be any exceptions – such as sibling groups?

The district currently has an accommodations form that will continue to be utilized to address individual situations as they arise. The district will utilize all types of information to appropriately distribute students to maximize and use the space available as well as plan for the continued growth expected in the district.

What will happen to our sports teams? What about our current 5A classification?

Clover High School is currently the 8th largest high school in the state of South Carolina and is projected to be over 2,800 students at the time the second high school opens. Clover School District will plan for two similarly sized high schools around 1,400-1,500 students. Currently, schools that have student enrollment between 1,200-1,800 in grades 9-12 are placed in the 4A classification. Other local schools currently in 4A include Catawba Ridge, Indian Land, Lancaster, South Pointe, and York. These high schools offer a full array of athletic programs.

What about Band and Color Guard?

Like sports, bands are grouped in classification based on the size of the school. The Band Directors Association groups schools for state competition. Local competitions can group bands based on the size of the band itself. With 1,400-1,500 students at each school, there will be plenty of opportunities for students to participate.

What about the Clover Choraliers?

The administration and secondary choral staff are considering a model that would keep Choraliers intact as a district wide program composed of students from both high schools. Each campus would have individual ensembles that could be combined for major concerts and events. Instruction would involve a rotation of existing high school directors.
**What about the Air Force JROTC program?**

With the addition of the second high school the district will be allowed to add another JROTC, pending sponsorship, from a different branch of the military. The district could also investigate the cost to duplicate the Air Force JROTC program and run two concurrent programs that can work together.

**What about the Applied Technology Center (ATC)?**

There are no plans to duplicate the strong foundation of career enabling programs that we have available at the ATC. We do want to encourage and increase those programs’ participation and will make scheduling and busing available to students at the second high school to ensure access.

**What will be the name and mascot of the second high school?**

Naming and branding decisions have not been made at this time. Clover School District will seek community input later in the process through surveys to find a name and mascot that will best represent the new school. Those decisions would be made later in the process approximately a year prior to the 2025-2026 opening of the school.

**How much is Clover School District asking for in the bond referendum?**

Clover School District submitted a bond resolution seeking $197 million for the following projects:

- High School #2 - $139,000,000
- Elementary School #8 - $36,000,000
- Middle School #3 through conversion of the 9th Grade Campus - $2,000,000
- Renovations to Clover High School - $22,500,000
- Renovations to Bethany Elementary School - $2,500,000
- Technology and Innovation Center - $6,800,000
- Furnitures, Fixtures, Landscaping, Technology for all projects - $23,000,000

Unspent funds from the operating budget are moved each year to a capital projects account to make needed improvements to current facilities and plan for future building needs. Through this proactive approach, CSD will be able to contribute $35 million in accrued funds to the bond projects.

**What is the difference between a bond and a tax?**

A bond is a governmental term for the liability that is owed over a period of time. A tax is the way the money is collected for the district to pay back on the indebtedness.

**Why won’t the impact fees cover the required/proposed costs?**

The Impact fee is meant to address the need for schools, land, buses, and administrative buildings due to growth. The district currently receives $4,000 per single family new construction home and $1,976 per multifamily new construction unit. Through June 2021 the district has received $695,586.00. The Impact Fee will be able to pay a portion of the cost for new school buildings but not the full amount. CSD will apply all impact fee funds to the payments of schools identified for growth (i.e. Middle School #3, Elementary School #8, or High School #2).
What about the annual assessment from the Catawba Nuclear Plant? How is that money used?

The most recent assessment from the Catawba Nuclear Plant is $151,000,000. At its current value, the plant pays 39% of the district’s bond debt and 62% of the operating tax.

What will the assessment on my property be?

The district has estimated the assessment from the bond to increase taxes $10.00 per month per $100,000 value of your home (or $120.00 per year which is 0.12%). This means that for the average home value in the district at $237,000, the assessment will cost $284.40 per year or $23.70 per month. These figures are an estimation. The exact figure is not available until the referendum is approved and the bonds are sold. Once they are sold, the applied interest rate and term will influence the final cost, but not to a great extent.

How will the existing bonds be paid off? And when?

The existing bonds will continue to be paid off as they are currently at $8.8 million per year. The 2006 bond which was refinanced in 2015 will be paid off in 2027 and the 2014 bond will be paid off in 2034.

Will the older schools/facilities in Clover be at a disadvantage?

No, they will not. Part of the funding the district is contributing to the bond referendum ($35 million) will be used to renovate and upgrade some of the older facilities. Renovations will ensure that older buildings reflect the 21st century learning spaces required by students to be prepared for today’s college and workforce norms. These facilities will reflect the best use of learning and collaborative spaces.

We saw design renderings of the proposed schools. Why do we need such elaborate facilities? Does that not increase the cost?

The designs reflect a welcoming and energizing environment where students can learn to work collaboratively. The facilities reflect the district’s design standards and will be built to accommodate the class size, required use, and fast growth the district has experienced over the last ten years. These designs allow the best use of our funding for today and well into the future. The materials are also built to last the high traffic multi-generational use that is expected and reduces maintenance and upgrades in the future that would be more costly.

Has the growth in Lake Wylie caused the need for new facilities?

Growth across the school district has fueled needs from Lake Wylie to Bethany. While the growth may be more visible from Bethel School Road to the Buster Boyd Bridge there has been a significant build up in single and multi-family homes across the district to include Clover.

What happens If Lake Wylie Incorporates?

The Clover School District will remain one school district that serves both the Clover, Lake Wylie, and unincorporated areas just as it does today.
**What will the impact be to buses and transportation?**

With the redistricting that comes when new schools open, the community should see relief in certain areas of traffic patterns for drop-off/pick-up. The bus routes will be redrawn in line with the redistricting. The bond does not cover, however, the cost of additional buses as they are not allowed under this type of funding. Buses are owned by the state and are allocated based on student population. As the district continues to grow, the state will provide additional buses to Clover School District based on their formulas. Additionally, the district can purchase buses with money collected from the Impact Fee to account for need based on growth, this can include activity buses.

**How can I vote for the bond if I am going to be out of town on September 18?**

Being out of tow is a valid reason to request alternate voting procedures. There are two viable ways you can vote.

**Option 1:** Go to the Voter Registration and Elections Office between August 19, 2021, and September 18, 2021 and vote in person. This office is in the basement of the new County Office building, 6 N. Congress St., York, South Carolina.

**Option 2:** Call the Registration and Election Office at 803-684-1242 and request an absentee ballot by mail. Follow instructions on returning the absentee ballot. It must be mailed and received in the Registration and Election Office by September 17, 2021.