

WE have made great strides.

Since 2013, the Colonial School District has refocused it's efforts in improving academics & offering new, innovative programming across all grade levels. While these efforts have brought great changes and growth to the district, they came at a cost. To ensure that all students continue to have access to high-quality, innovative educational experiences, the district will be holding a referendum on February 28th, 2017. In the four years since the last referendum, Colonial has done things never before done in our district and community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Providing Full and half day preschool for 3 & 4 year olds accepting STARS/Purchase of Care funding.
- Introducing Kindergarten Camp to ease the transition for incoming kindergarten families.

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

- Increasing enrollment for students living in and out of district lines.
- Expanding our summer program offerings to help with learning loss while providing affordable recreational and educational opportunities.
- Universal free breakfast at all schools. Twelve out of 14 free schools now have access to free lunch.
- Provide on-site & mobile feeding programs for the summer.
- Active community member with Advisory Councils, WP alumni & Senior Centers.
- Involved with charities such Relay for Life, CROP foundation & more that support our students.
- Members of New Castle Prevention Coalition.

INNOVATION

- Currently revitalizing the Planetarium at McCullough
- Offering Spanish and Chinese Immersion.
- Growing our Career & Technical programs like Med lab, Agriculture & Culinary with multiple students earning professional certifications prior to graduation.
- First & only high school in the state to have a certification program in Phlebotomy.
- Partnership with Reading Assist to increase literacy throughout the district.
- Hands on innovative classrooms at all school levels to enhance student engagement.

LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING

- Named at top Delaware Workplace in 2016 by The News Journal.
- Monthly professional development opportunities allowing staff to always be students.
- Engage non-traditional resources to embrace 21st century learning.
- Raising the bar for instruction and support for all students, including students with special needs, traditional learners and accelerated learners.

What is the referendum for?

School revenue comes from property taxes. In New Castle County, our property values were last assessed in 1983. Since assessed property values have been fixed since 1983, school revenues are also fixed unless the tax rate is increased. The only way school districts in Delaware can keep pace with inflation and/or provide enhanced programming is to ask their communities to raise their tax rate.



SECURITY

- A 3 year phase in to secure entrances at all Colonial Schools.
- A stakeholder committee will be formed to help determine the order of completion.

OPERATING EXPENSES

- Elimination of the budget deficit to continue current services and staffing levels
- Maintaining class size and allowing for growth (additional teaching positions)
- Investing in high quality staff through a competitive compensation plan
- Fostering student achievement and engagement through enhanced curriculum resources

EXPANDING FULL DAY PRESCHOOL

Research shows quality early education improves kindergarten readiness, closes the achievement gap, boosts long term outcomes and potential earnings.

- Increase staff to expand Preschool classrooms and programming
- Ability to offer additional new preschool slots from waiting list

MIDDLE SCHOOL REDESIGN

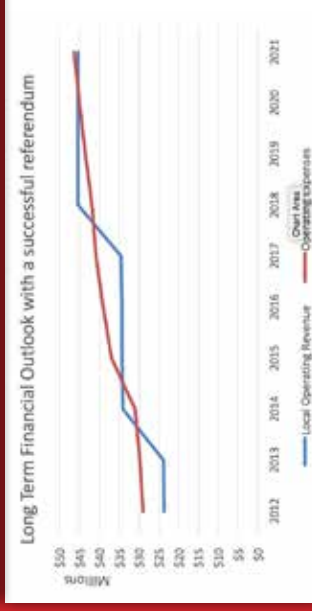
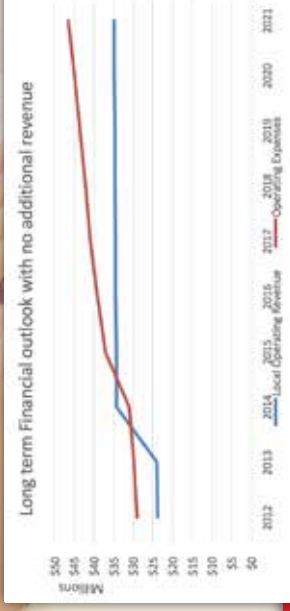
- Support new middle school courses
 - Health Care Technician
 - Culinary
 - Broadcast and Media Technology
- Create student led initiatives
 - Emergency Medical Responders at McCullough
 - The George Read Farmer's Market
 - The Gunning Bedford Theater & Art Program
- Work based learning experiences, guest speakers & professional development

TECHNOLOGY

- Investing in additional student devices to meet demand
- Upgrade & maintain current technology
- Increasing tech support staff to minimize downtime in the classroom

ELEMENTARY WELLNESS

- District efforts to support social, emotional and physical well being at elementary schools
- Eisenberg School Based Wellness Center
 - Students have onsite access to basic medical care beyond the school nurse & services include
 - Access to *physicals and Immunizations*
 - *Social-emotional & mental health counseling*
 - *Basic emergency triage*
 - Supports parents by providing immediate options when primary care physician is not available
- Future exploration of school-based wellness centers at other schools



VOTE on February 28th, 10 am - 8 pm

Taxpayer impact 39.4¢

per \$100 of assessed* home value, phased in over a 2 year period

FAQ's, a calculator, meeting information and more at colonialreferendum.com

FAQS

I don't have children in the district.

Why should I vote for this referendum?

Great schools benefit everyone. Great schools make for safer communities and help to increase the value of homes in Colonial. They prepare students for good jobs so that these young people can one day support us through their Social Security contributions. Nearly everyone is a product of a school system that was paid for by a previous generation.

Is there relief for Seniors?

YES! Senior citizens, aged 65 and older, are entitled to a credit of 50% of their School District taxes up to \$500, provided they meet the state's 3-year residency requirement. To qualify, complete a School Tax Credit Application and return it to the New Castle County Assessment Office by April 30. Seniors may also qualify for additional reductions in sewer and county property tax based on income. For more information about these programs, call the County at 395-5520.

When was our last referendum?

A 2013 referendum addressed operating expenses necessitated by funding cuts from the state and other factors.

Do I have to own property to vote?

No, anyone who lives in the Colonial School District; Are at least 18-years old, a citizen of the USA & Delaware are eligible to vote

How important is approval of the referendum to the operation and success of our school system?

Very important. We cannot allow ourselves to halt the great progress we have made; we need to stay ahead of the game. We must be certain we provide all of the resources for our students to achieve, succeed, and be well prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

What happens if it doesn't pass?

Colonial will need to make significant budget cuts without additional revenue generated by a successful referendum. With 70% of our budget spent on people, instituting these cuts will impact staff and programming. This includes:

- Administrative Staff
 - Instructional Staff
 - Support Staff
 - Operational Staff
 - Current Class Sizes
 - Enhancement and expansion of programs
- All of these cuts ultimately impact one group the most . . . our students

How do we know referendum funds for are handled properly?

The state also audits our projects twice a year. In addition, a group of skilled professionals – the Financial Advisory Committee – meets monthly, year round, to review our financial documents, including referendum spending.

We monitor referendum spending very closely. Referendum expenditures are a part of the financial reports presented at the public Board Meetings that occur once a month. Community members have the ability to review these reports online at any time.

"Thanks to our engaged staff and new vision, our school district is better than ever before."

*-Shelia Goodson
Parent and Friend of Colonial*



Cast Your Vote February 28th

You can vote at ANY polling place in the election if you:

- Live in the Colonial School District
- Are at least 18-years old, a citizen of the USA & Delaware
- Show proof of identity and address – driver's license, passport or state I.D. card

You DO NOT need to be a registered voter

You DO NOT need to be a property owner

Every member of the household can vote if you meet the requirements above. Felony records do NOT prohibit people from voting

Polling Places - Open 10 am - 8 pm:

Carrie Downie Elementary School
Carvel State Building
Castle Hills Elementary School
Eisenberg Elementary School
McCullough Middle School
Pleasantville Elementary School
Southern Elementary School
Wilbur Elementary School
William Penn High School
Wilmington Manor Elementary
Delaware City Library
Howard Weston Senior Center
Kingswood Community Center
New Castle Senior Center

Vote

February 28th

Want More information?

VISIT: colonialreferendum.com

FOLLOW: #votecolonial

EMAIL: referendum@colonial.k12.de.us



The Power of
W
Early Childhood
Leadership & Learning
Innovation
Access & Opportunity
Community
Students
Staff
Families

Invest

2017 referendum

Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT