

ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



2026 Capital Project Vote

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 | 7:00am - 9:00pm

Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria and Rockwell Elementary Gymnasium



Industrial Arts Building and Instructional Greenhouse (Conceptual Rendering)

ASHLEY MCGRAW
ARCHITECTS

Proposed Project Cost - \$15,661,284 (NO Additional Tax Increase)

To accommodate the changing needs of our students and staff, Onondaga Central Schools is embarking on a comprehensive renovation project encompassing numerous essential upgrades.

THE ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY

CHALLENGES individual maximum potential, prides itself on SUCCESS and prepares contributing CITIZENS for life.

Special Edition - 2026 Capital Project

2026 CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

Industrial Arts Building and Instructional Greenhouse (STEAM Learning Center):

The redesign focuses on versatile, tech-equipped spaces with flexible layouts for interdisciplinary education and collaboration. This modernized center will be a dynamic, adaptable environment preparing students for future educational and career paths in trades and technology.

Outdated Kitchens: **(Wheeler ES and Jr./Sr High School)**

In critical need of refurbishment to meet current health and safety standards. Numerous pieces of kitchen equipment are beyond their useful life, original to the building, or too old to modify or find replacement parts.

Building a Better Future:

Addressing key infrastructure repairs and upgrades for the health and safety of students and staff. Replacement of aging boiler systems to improve the comfort and safety of our school buildings while also reducing our energy costs.

Supporting Green Initiatives:

Developing flexible electrical infrastructure required to support electric buses and vehicles, aligning with New York State's Zero Emission Bus Fleet and Vehicle Mandate.

Enhancing School Grounds/Facilities:

Update athletic fields for baseball and softball. Improvements to our school campus including roads, sidewalks, and landscaping will promote safety and community pride.

Investing in the Future:

By prioritizing education and infrastructure, we're not just building better facilities; we're building a brighter future for our community. This project will equip our students with the skills and resources they need to succeed in the ever-evolving world and address current and future education employment needs.



Kitchens that are no longer up to date require renovation to comply with the latest health and safety regulations.



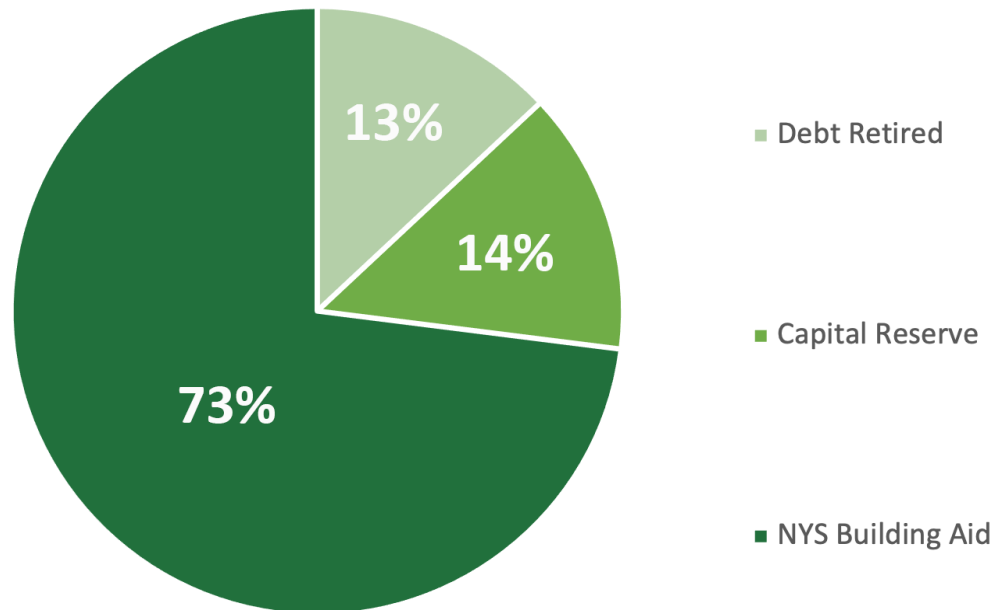
Critical infrastructure improvements needed to maintain safe environments for students, staff, and the community.



Athletic field improvements including to baseball and softball fields.

2026 CAPITAL PROJECT FINANCIALS

Proposed Project Cost - \$15,661,284 (NO Additional Tax Increase)



Why a Capital Project?

Although facility care and maintenance are addressed daily, years of use and changing demands in security, energy efficiencies, educational delivery, and technology integration within the classroom and building infrastructure require capital improvement outside the operating budget and routine facility stewardship.

A Capital Project will allow us to keep pace and get ahead of changing demands and needs. Because it is funded largely by New York State building aid and bonds, a capital project enables our district to invest in our facilities with significantly less financial pressure on local taxpayers and our school budget. Specifically, without a capital project, we would forfeit the opportunity to utilize our 73% New York State building aid to the overall project costs.

Utilizing our Capital Reserve funds and financing the project over 15 years, along with careful financial planning, allows us to propose a \$15,661,284 capital project with **no additional tax increase**.

Capital Project Public Presentations

Navarino Fire Department: March 7 at 7:00pm

BOE Meeting with Capital Project Public Presentation

Rockwell Elementary Cafeteria: February 27 at 5:00pm (Prior to regular board meeting at 6:00pm)

Jr./Sr. HS Cafeteria: March 12 at 5:30pm (Prior to regular board meeting at 6:30pm)

2026 CAPITAL PROJECT

PROJECT PLANNING & OUTREACH

Facilities Committee Meetings:

April 20, 2023
Wheeler, 6:30pm-8:00pm

May 4, 2023,
Rockwell, 6:00pm-8:00pm

June 5, 2023
Jr./Sr. HS Campus Tour, 6:30pm-8:30pm

August 15, 2023
Groton Central School District Site, Visit 8:30am-1:00pm

November 6, 2023
Jr./Sr. HS Library, 6:00pm-8:00pm

December 4, 2023
Jr./Sr. HS Library, 6:00pm-8:00pm

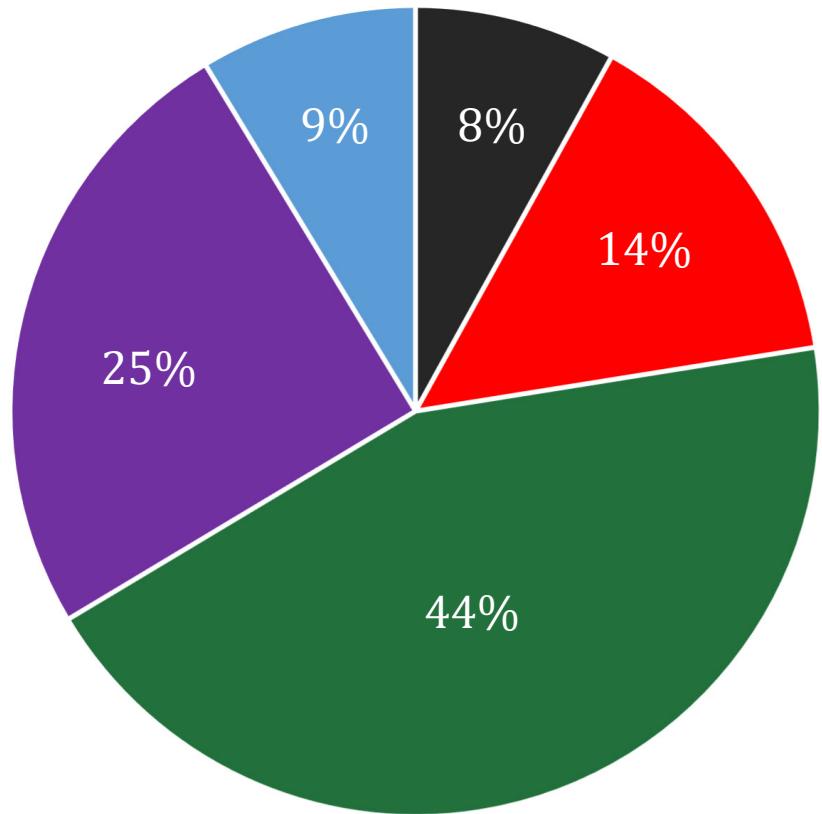
January 8, 2024
Jr./Sr. HS Library, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Public Presentations:

February 27, 2024
Rockwell Elementary Cafeteria, 5:00pm

March 7, 2024
Navarino Fire Department, 7:00pm

March 12, 2024
Jr./Sr. HS Cafeteria, 5:30pm



■ Rockwell Elementary ■ Wheeler Elementary ■ Jr./Sr. High School
■ Industrial Arts ■ Bus Garage

Every building gets a slice of the pie: *Where the money goes...*

The proposed Capital Project includes numerous high priority scope items at each of the District's buildings identified in the New York State mandated Building Condition Survey.

Rockwell Elementary	\$1.26 Mil	(8%)
Wheeler Elementary	\$2.26 Mil	(14%)
Jr./Sr. High School	\$6.88 Mil	(44%)
Industrial Arts	\$3.90 Mil	(25%)
Bus Garage	\$1.36 Mil	(9%)
		100%

2026 CAPITAL PROJECT

Industrial Arts Building

- Wood Shop Renovation
- Metal Shop Renovation
- Classroom Renovations
- Greenhouse Addition

Jr/Sr High School

- Kitchen/Serving Room Renovations
- Kitchen Equipment Improvements
- Select Bathroom Renovations (ADA Compliance)
- Science Room Renovation
- Masonry Restoration/Repairs
- Roof Improvements
- Boiler and Associated Pump Replacements
- Fiber Optic Line Replacement
- Replace Infield Mix at Baseball and Softball Fields
- Exterior Stairs Replacement
- Digital Site Sign Replacement
- HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing Replacements/Upgrades
- Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting Additions

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email us at capitalproject@onondagacsd.org, call the District office at 315-552-5000, or visit www.onondagacsd.org



Industrial Arts Building: The renovation of the space will be developed around incorporating state-of-the-art technology and equipment with versatile layouts that can easily be reconfigured to accommodate activities across disciplines.



Jr/Sr High School: Critical infrastructure improvements needed to maintain safe environments for students, staff, and the community.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR Code to visit our Capital Project website and view a virtual presentation on the project.

2026 CAPITAL PROJECT

Rockwell Elementary School

- Kitchen Equipment Improvements
- Main Office Renovations
- Masonry Restoration/Repairs
- Sidewalk Restoration/Repairs
- Exterior Stair Improvements
- Structural Upgrades
- Electric Service Feeder Replacement
- Boiler and Associated Pump Replacements
- HVAC Replacements/Upgrades



Wheeler Elementary School

- Kitchen/Serving Room Renovations
- Kitchen Equipment Improvements
- Gymnasium Operable Partition Replacement
- Masonry Restoration/Repairs
- Roof Improvements
- Gas House Demolition
- Boiler and Associated Pump Replacements
- HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing Replacements/Upgrades
- Fire Alarm Upgrades
- Exterior Lighting Additions
- Site Drainage Improvements
- Concrete Sidewalk Repairs

Bus Garage

- Electrical Upgrades for EV Bus Charging
- Electric Charging Stations Associated Sitework
- Pavement/Site Improvements
- Roof Improvements
- HVAC Upgrades
- Fire Alarm and CO Detection Systems

Capital Project Public Presentations

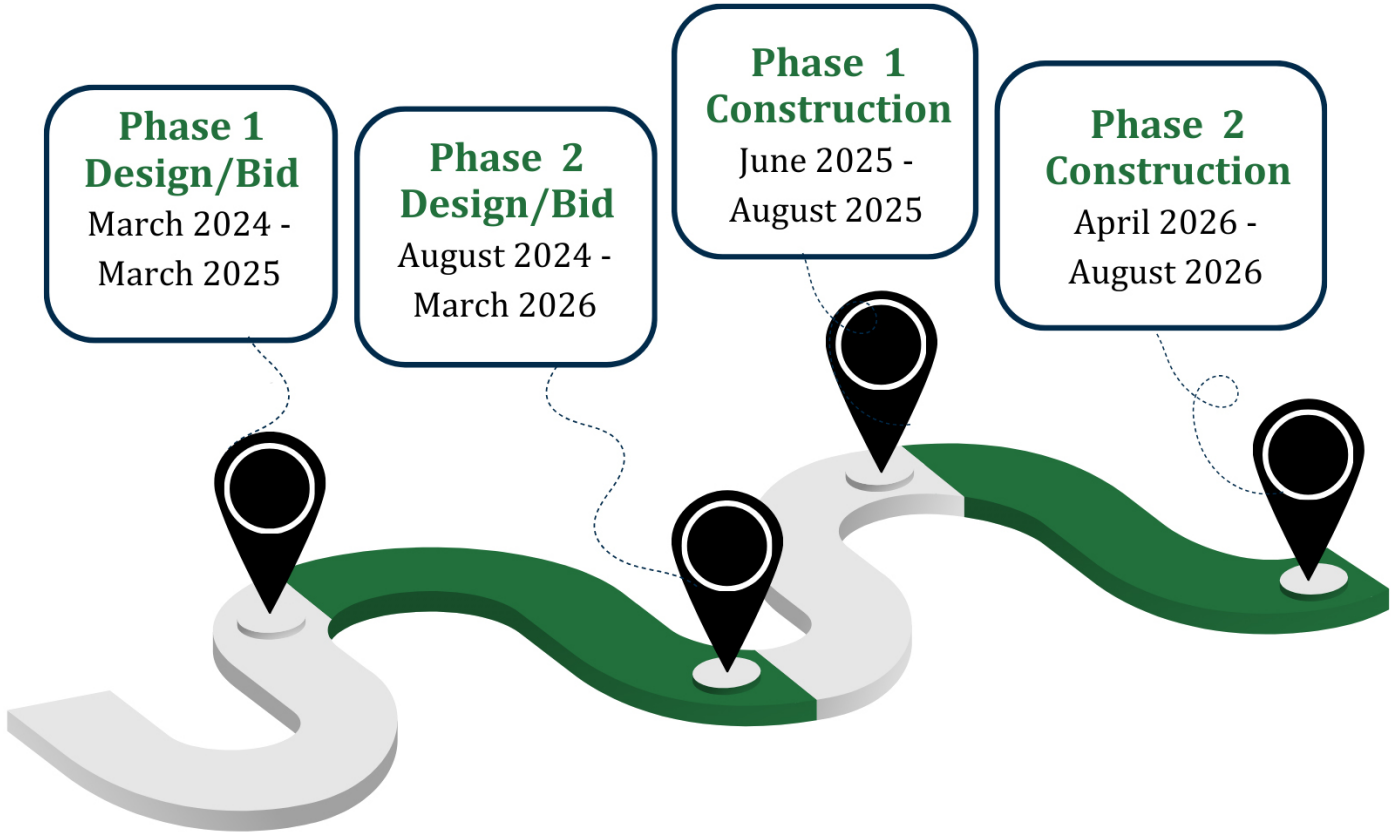
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2026 CAPITAL PROJECT



If approved, when would the project be completed?

The planning, design, and construction process for a project takes many years. Once a project is voted on, the design process, review, and approval from the State Education Department (SED) can take as long as a year to occur. The construction schedule seeks to minimize disruptions to the school day.

Phase 1 of the Capital Project includes critical infrastructure items and sitework at the Bus Garage, Jr/Sr High School, and Wheeler Elementary School. The design, SED review, and bid process is expected to occur from March 2024-March 2025. Construction will begin June 2025 and conclude August 2025.

Meanwhile, the bulk of the Capital Project will be in Phase 2. Design, SED review, and bid process is expected from August 2024-March 2026. Construction is scheduled from April 2026-August 2026.



Scan the QR Code to visit our Capital Project website and view a virtual presentation on the project.

KITCHEN RENOVATIONS



Wheeler Elementary: Exhaust hoods are beyond their useful life and need replacement.



Wheeler Elementary: Existing serving line is 50+ years old with no way to modify or replace parts. Inefficient flow.



Wheeler Elementary: Much like other equipment, existing built-in walk-in cooler is original to building.



Jr/Sr High School: Current kitchen is not fully functional. New kitchen would allow greater flexibility and reduce time from when food is cooked to served.



Jr/Sr High School: No longer up to date require renovation to comply with the latest health and safety regulations.



Rockwell Elementary: Double deck convection oven is very old and beyond its useful life. Bottom oven does not work, forcing staff to use residential range for warming.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS BUILDING



Existing Industrial Arts Building



Existing Industrial Arts Building



Conceptual Rendering

The **Industrial Arts Building and Instructional Greenhouse (STEAM Learning Center)** will prepare students for the 21st century - whether they choose to pursue a post-secondary education or career in the trades and manufacturing industries. The proposed renovations aim to transform the space into a Learning Center that integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).

The goal is to create a versatile learning space that can adapt to the evolving needs of students and local industries for years to come. This revitalization will provide students with the space to learn skills needed for construction trades, computer and nano technologies, agricultural sciences, 3D arts, manufacturing industries, as well as business and entrepreneurship.

2026 CAPITAL PROJECT



Wheeler Elementary - Gym Operable Partition Replacement



Wheeler Elementary - Masonry Repairs

Why now?

There are many reasons why we are asking the community to vote on this project now. First, there are several areas of the District that are in need of renovation as determined by the Building Condition Survey. The District has an obligation to upkeep the buildings and grounds to ensure the safety and security of our students, staff and community.

Second, it allows us to take advantage of New York State building aid. By utilizing the 73% aid, capital reserve funds, and financing the project over the next 15 years, this allows us to propose a Capital Project with **no additional tax increase**.

What is a Building Condition Survey (BCS)?

Every five years, a school district is required to complete an inspection of the school buildings to ensure the safety of the school buildings and the welfare of the occupants. This comprehensive report is completed by our architect and engineers and assesses “the need for maintenance, repairs, rehabilitation, reconstruction, construction and other improvements related to the structural integrity and overall safety of public school buildings including but not limited to building systems related to electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, sanitation and health, fire and accident protection.” The BCS for our District was completed in 2023 and the results were reviewed with District officials and used to develop the majority of the scope for this capital project.

If we are taking good care of our buildings, why do we need a capital project?

The proposal includes numerous critical infrastructure improvements districtwide. These are largely behind the scenes projects that are necessary to keep our schools and grounds in safe, working order. For example, leaking roofs, failing HVAC systems, or faulty kitchen equipment can completely disrupt the learning environment taking away from valuable instructional time. And much like your home, the older the building the more likely repairs will be needed from age and regular use. If the infrastructure protecting instructional spaces is compromised, it will undoubtedly compromise the integrity of the entire school. Our goal is to ensure our students, staff, and the community have safe, comfortable environments that help foster learning.

CAPITAL PROJECT VOTING INFORMATION

REMEMBER TO VOTE - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

**Rockwell Elementary Gymnasium &
Junior/Senior High School Cafeteria**

7:00am - 9:00pm

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a citizen of the United States
- Must be eighteen (18) years of age
- Must be a resident of the OCS District for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to March 20, 2024

EARLY VOTING AND ABSENTEE VOTING

Early voting and absentee applications can be requested from the District Office between February 20, 2024 and March 19, 2024.

Ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00pm on March 20, 2024

PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to reconstruct, renovate and construct improvements and upgrades to the Rockwell Elementary School, Wheeler Elementary School, Onondaga Junior/Senior High School, Industrial Arts Building with Instructional Greenhouse addition and the Transportation Center/Bus Garage, including, but not limited to, electrical and mechanical improvements, HVAC and plumbing replacement and upgrades, masonry replacement and repairs, ADA accessibility improvements, addition of air conditioning in certain locations, fire alarm and security upgrades, boiler plant replacement and repairs in certain locations, select roof replacements, select paving replacement, interior and exterior improvements, renovation of school kitchens and replacement of kitchen equipment, athletic field and playground improvements with addition of exterior lighting at the Wheeler Elementary basketball court and playground, asbestos abatement, and site work and electric service at the Transportation Center associated with electric charging stations for zero-emission buses mandated by New York State, all to include original furnishings, fixtures and equipment, architectural fees, site improvements, and all other costs incidental to such work at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$15,661,284, and obtain the necessary funds by (i) using \$1,843,057 from the Capital Reserve approved by the District's voters on May 16, 2017, (ii) using \$331,943 of available District funds, (iii) using any available State building aid, and (iv) to the extent necessary, the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board of Education shall determine and in anticipation of such tax shall the District be authorized to issue up to \$13,486,284 of obligations of the District and levy a tax to pay the interest thereon when due.

**ONONDAGA CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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By Jayvon Meyer

