

## Middle School Building Proposal



**HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
A PATHWAY FOR EVERY STUDENT

### Did you know?

1. Holyoke residents (homeowners and renters) **have the opportunity to vote “yes” or “no” to new middle school buildings on November 5.**
2. The two middle school model of 550-students each was selected after **extensive community input.** Mid-sized middle schools allow sufficient resources to provide a robust middle school experience (STEM labs, music, arts), while promoting **strong relationships, student safety and personalization.**
3. **Holyoke residents and businesses will pay at most 28% of the total project cost.** The rest is funded by the MSBA grant of \$75.8 million (only available for this project) and the annual contribution of \$1 million from HPS during the life of a 30-year bond.
4. Based on the average home value of \$190,637, the annual, temporary tax impact would be up to \$129.60 per year. This is up to **\$10.80/month** - much less than other communities are paying.
5. Holyoke **hasn’t had a new school building in 30 years.** **Four HPS schools** (Peck, Lawrence, Metcalf, McMahon) **rated extremely low in overall quality** in a 2016 independent facility audit.
6. **Renovating Peck is more costly and less effective** than building new. Peck’s underlying structural system is a great challenge; the building also contains asbestos, mercury, and lead paint.
7. **If the middle school building proposal is voted down on Nov. 5, we have to start over** with the MSBA. The MSBA grant goes away. It would take years before another proposal is considered.
8. The new buildings would **promote 21st century learning and a healthy environment.** They would be energy efficient, with a focus on daylighting, healthy materials and good ventilation.
9. Building new, more efficient buildings will allow HPS to close three out-of-date and less safe buildings and **save \$4.5 million annually.** Savings will be used to expand dual language, arts and after-school programs; open a Pre-K center; reduce class sizes; hire more counselors and tutors.



**10. Attending new schools increases test scores** by 10% in math and 5% in English Language Arts, in part due to improvements like increased student attendance.\*

**11. New school buildings provide an economic boost.** House values increase by 6% in neighborhoods with new schools.\*

\*American Economic Association

[www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/turnaround/msredesign](http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/turnaround/msredesign)