

Factors Driving the Plan



Overcrowding

Several schools, especially at the elementary level, have class sizes of 27 students or more. Without space to add new classrooms, some buildings have reintroduced portable (modular) units to accommodate students.



State Co-Funding

Lakota is eligible for up to 32% state co-funding of all approved MFP projects—approximately \$200 million—by following the recommendations of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC).



Enrollment Growth

Current enrollment has already exceeded 2018 projections. Updated studies from within the last year forecast 2,000 additional students over the next decade.



Aging Infrastructure

For many of our aging buildings that require costly system updates, the OFCC ratings verify that it is more expensive to renovate than to rebuild. Examples include: mechanical systems, roofing, plumbing and safety and security features.



Projected Financial Impact

Anticipated operational savings from the Nov. 2025 bond issue and PI levy are projected to avoid a higher net-mill operating levy forecasted for November 2028.



Community Spaces:

District leaders are exploring partnerships to reimagine the land-use of decommissioned schools. Ideas include community centers in Liberty and West Chester townships that could serve all residents, including senior citizens, by offering recreational spaces, meeting rooms and spaces for daytime programming.



Get the Facts: Master Facilities Plan

2025 Bond Issue &
Permanent Improvement Levy

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Lakota's Master Facilities Plan (MFP) and proposed November 2025 bond issue and permanent improvement levy.

WHY NOW?

Since 2018, Lakota Local Schools has been working on a long-term MFP. The plan seeks to achieve operational savings and enhanced programming for students while addressing overcrowding and projected enrollment growth. It also allows Lakota to receive state co-funding that helps offset costs to the community.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Scan to visit our
MFP FAQ ▼



Scan to learn more about
Lakota's MFP ▼



NOW OR LATER?

Lakota's MFP maximizes state co-funding, avoids a higher operating levy and creates long-term operational savings.

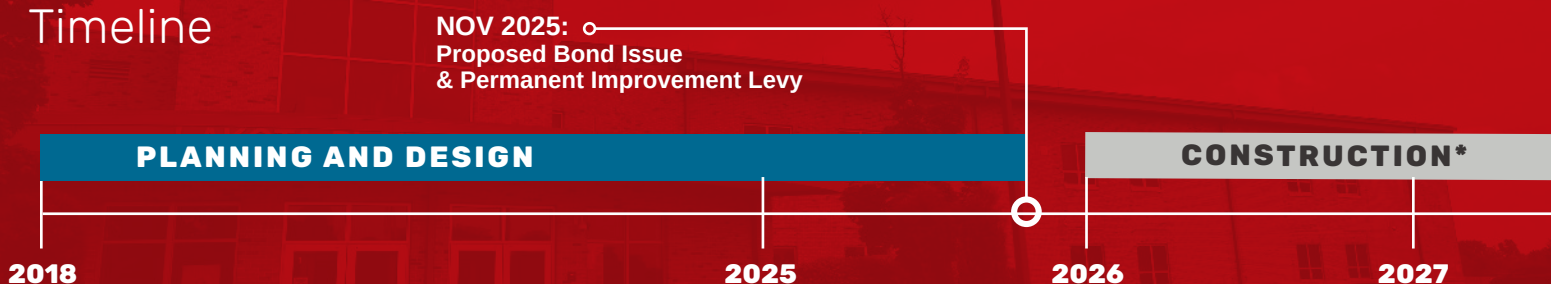
	NOW	LATER
	November 2025 (Bond Issue & Permanent Improvement Levy)	November 2028 (Operating & Permanent Improvement Levy)
NET Impact to Taxpayers	2.66 mills or \$93.10/\$100,000 auditor appraised property value	3.12 mills or \$109.20/\$100,000 auditor appraised property value
State Co-Funding	32% (about \$200 million)	None
Class Sizes	Smaller	Maintain, possibly increase
Programming Impact	Consistent rotation of specials (K-5) and more electives (6-12)	Possible elimination of K-6 specials and/or all-day kindergarten to accommodate smaller class sizes
Projected Operational Savings	Yes: Decrease to 16 buildings	No: Maintain 21 buildings
Facility Impact	New and renovated buildings	Maintain all existing buildings

MFP's Educational Impact:

- **Smaller Class Sizes:** Additional classroom space will help reduce class sizes, especially in elementary grades.
- **Fewer Transitions:** A new grade configuration will reduce the number of school transitions, allowing students to stay in one school for a longer period of time.
- **Consistent Specials:** Specials like art, music, PE and STEM, reduced after previous levy failures, can return in a more consistent rotation for grades K-5.
- **New Learning Opportunities:** Space for more electives to be offered, including earlier access for sixth graders through a middle school model.
- **Collaboration Spaces:** New buildings will include flexible, multi-use spaces that support teamwork and hands-on learning—something current buildings often lack.
- **Enhanced Safety:** Fewer schools would allow Lakota to designate one school resource officer (SRO) for every school. Some SROs are currently shared between schools. The plan also calls for other safety enhancements, including ADA compliance improvements.
- **Support Services:** More space would allow for more counselors in K-8 schools. Some schools currently have student-to-counselor ratios as high as 750:1, compared to the national average of 376:1.*

*Source: American School Counselor Association

Timeline



LAKOTA'S NEW FOOTPRINT

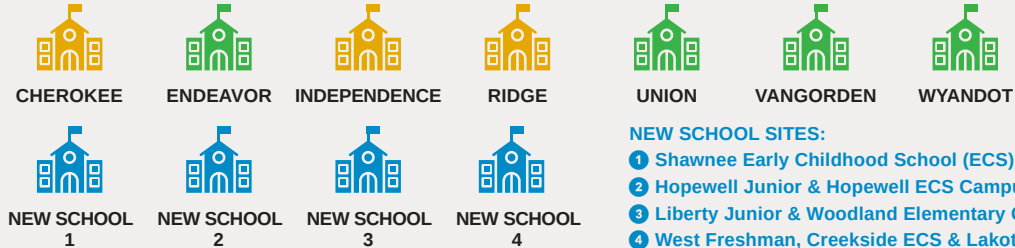
Building Conditions *(based on OFCC evaluation)*

Preschool



- Good (Renovate)
- Borderline (Renovate)
- Deficient (Decommission)
- New K-5 School

Elementary Schools (K-5)



Middle Schools (6-8)



High Schools (9-12)



Decommissioned



**Creekside / West Freshman / Lakota Central High School*

Building Conditions: Renovate or Rebuild?

Decisions about whether to renovate or rebuild school buildings are guided by data. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) has assessed 23 major building components in each Lakota school, including infrastructure systems, layout and compliance with current standards.

While renovations may seem less expensive, outdated systems and inefficient layouts often drive up long-term costs. According to OFCC guidelines, if renovation costs to bring a building up to new standards exceed 68% of the cost to build new, the recommendation is to rebuild.

As a neutral state agency, the OFCC sets the standard for school facilities across Ohio's 600+ school districts, resulting in consistent criteria statewide.

Partnering with the State

Lakota can only qualify for 32% state co-funding — about \$200 million — if it follows the OFCC building condition ratings. If the District chooses not to follow these ratings, improvements not matching OFCC recommendations would not qualify for state co-funding.



FALL 2028:
Grades 6-12
Additions Complete

JAN 2029:
Tax Collection
Begins

FALL 2029:
New K-5 Buildings
Complete

2030:
Demolition

2033+:
Additional Renovations to
Remaining Schools Using
State Co-Funding

2028

2029

2030

2033+

**Students should not be displaced during construction.*



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For the first time since 2013, our voters will see Lakota Local Schools on the Nov. 4 ballot. The 2013 operating & permanent improvement levy, intended to provide enough funding for five years, will stretch through 2028... a total of 15 years. Refinancing will allow the District to pay off 2.28 mills from bonds issued in 2000 and 2005 in 2028, resulting in a lower net impact to taxpayers. Lakota's MFP seeks to achieve operational savings and efficiencies by decreasing its footprint from 21 to 16 buildings. These anticipated operational savings are projected to avoid a higher net-mill operating levy forecasted for November 2028.



The ballot language and county auditor's website calculator assume collection beginning in 2026, but collection would be delayed until 2029.

BALLOT WILL SHOW	ACTUAL NET IMPACT	THE DIFFERENCE EXPLAINED
Bond Issue: 4.99 mills	Bond Issue: 3.99 mills	Three independent financial firms have verified no more than 3.99 mills will need to be collected for the bond issue, factoring in co-funding and changes to our tax base.
Permanent Improvement Levy: 0.95 mills	Permanent Improvement Levy: 0.95 mills	
Roll-Off: Not Shown on ballot	Roll-Off: (2.28 mills)	The roll-off refers to 2.28 mills that will no longer be collected after 2028.
Total: 5.94 mills or \$208 per \$100,000 auditor appraised property value	Net Increase: 2.66 mills or \$93.10 per \$100,000 auditor appraised property value*	The Lakota Board of Education approved two Resolutions of Intent on June 30 and July 21 to limit collections to 2.66 mills and delay collection until 2029 in sync with the bond roll-off.
Collection Start: Not shown on ballot	Collection Start: 2029	The November 2025 ballot language will read as if collections were going to begin in 2026. This is not the case.
State Co-Funding: Not shown on ballot	State Co-Funding: 32% (or about \$200 million)	

**Note: For residents over 65 or with disabilities and income under \$38,600/year, the net increase is \$68.71/year per \$100,000 auditor appraised property value.*

The Board's decision to delay collections until 2029 reduces the net impact to taxpayers to an amount that is less than the ballot and county auditor's website calculator indicate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Watch a video about the bond issue and permanent improvement levy. ►

