



Chariho Regional School District

5 Year Capital Improvement and Stage II Application Plan Overview

Goal: To build three new elementary schools (one in each town) and complete health and safety upgrades to our main campus for a similar cost as to what we would spend to continue to maintain our current facilities. The district would be eligible for **state funding incentives** that provide Chariho students K-12 with enhanced learning opportunities in 21st century classrooms. The District seeks to retire bonds that receive **61%-65% state aid** and implement a new bond that will be eligible to receive **75% to 81% reimbursement** on principal and interest over the next few years.

Important Information: All school districts are required to submit a **Stage II application** to RIDE for a 5 year Capital Improvement plan per the [regulations](#). This is also a requirement that each of our towns needs for their records.

The district faced the choice of going out to bond for two options:

1. Request a bond for the current 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, which focuses on basic maintenance for health and safety requirements, totaling approximately \$30 million dollars over 5 years.
2. Request a bond for Capital Improvements at the Main Campus, plus New Construction of Three Elementary Schools (one in each town), increasing State Aid from 61% up to 81% reimbursement and allowing taxpayers to invest a much larger amount of money at a cost similar to maintenance focused on warm, safe and dry work.

Proposed Stage II Application: Three new Elementary Schools (one in each town) and Health and Safety upgrades on the Chariho Main Campus that houses: Chariho Regional High School, CHARIHotech, Chariho Alternative Learning Academy, and Chariho Regional Middle School.

Timeline: Chariho would include the elementary projects in the Stage II application. The Towns would hold a special election and ask voters to approve funding of which Chariho would be eligible to receive up to 81% reimbursement on the amount needed. This timeline allows the district to plan construction and line up a new bond with the retiring debt. [Click here](#) to review requirements for Stage II applications.

Overview & Purpose: The 2017 Statewide Facility Assessment revealed **\$70 Million dollars in building deficiencies** (in 2023 dollars) and identified the average age of Chariho's four elementary schools is 75+ years old. Chariho has a unique opportunity to make additional facility investments and minimally impact taxes by taking advantage of the temporary Housing Aid incentives and improve facilities with a new bond that receives more State aid.

Opportunity: Chariho has *two bonds* ending over the next three years. By taking advantage of temporary Housing Aid incentives, **Chariho could build a new elementary school in each town** and minimally impact the annual debt allocation due to the **81% State reimbursement rate**.

[Click here](#) to read the Elementary Facility Overview.

[Click here](#) to read the Secondary Facility Overview of schools on the Main Campus

[Click here](#) to watch the 12/12/23 School Committee discussing the Procedures and Overview of this work.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Important Opportunities
to Learn More in
January and February 2024!*

Necessity for School Construction Subcommittee Meetings @ CHS Library 4 pm:

January 8th
January 31st
February 12th

Community Vision Meeting @ CHS Library 6 pm:

January 8th

Chariho School Committee Meetings @ CHS Library 7pm:

January 9th
January 11th
February 13th

Omnibus Meeting: @CHS Library 7 PM

*(School Committee, Town Councils,
State Representatives and Senators):*

January 17th

Town Council Meetings @ each Town Hall:

Richmond: January 16th
Charlestown: January 22nd
Hopkinton: February 5th

2023 Capital Improvement Project Timeline to Date

- January - February 2023 - Budget Workshops that included Capital Improvement Needs
- March 14 - School Committee received financial overview that reviewed decommissioning Hope Valley due to decreased district enrollment and the overall financial picture of the district
- April 25 - School Committee Directs Superintendent to prepare a letter to the community along with a survey regarding school construction, capital improvements and renovations.
- May 23 - District Strategic Plan approved by School Committee with every priority area noting that our educational priority areas will be implemented in conjunction with the the district's capital improvement plan to support student learning.
- June – September - School Committee approves a letter and survey to be sent to all families. This letter and survey was shared via the Superintendent E Updates. The district asked each town to place the survey on their social media pages and websites.
- June 5,14, 15, 19 - Elementary Community Facility Walks
- September 12 - School Committee voted to put out a Request For Proposals for an Architect for the Stage II Application
- October 10 - School Committee Meeting- Superintendent provided a Necessity for School Construction Update during Supt. Updates
- October 24 - School Committee Meeting: Superintendent provided a Necessity for School Construction Update during Supt. Updates
- November 8 - Necessity for School Construction Committee Meeting: Reviewed and Scored Bids from Architects
- November 14 - School Committee voted to select SLAM as the Architect for the Stage II application
- November 27 - Necessity for School Construction Committee Meeting: Discussed the current state of our facilities to build a Capital Improvement Plan and the most fiscally responsible options
- December 4 - Necessity For School Construction Committee Meeting: Reviewed Stage II Checklist and Architect Contract
- December 12 - Health & Wellness Committee- Discussed Progress of the Necessity for School Construction Stage 2 application
- December 12 - School Committee meeting-Reviewed requirements for a Stage II Application. Mario Carreno, from RIDE explained the Stage II application process & School Committee Approved the Architect Contract for the Stage II application.