



*Cherry Hill*

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**A. Russell Knight Elementary School  
Building Needs Presentation Fall 2021**

**WE Are Listening**



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## AGENDA

1. Why Improvements Now?
2. What **WE** Have Been Able to Do This Year
3. The Process
4. District-Wide Facility Assessment Findings
5. Why Take on Debt?
6. Why Don't We Just Build New Schools?
7. Renovation is the Fiscally Responsible Answer
8. ARK Elementary's Needs/Project List/Costs
9. District-Wide Assessment Project Costs - Pie Chart
10. How We All Benefit
11. Next Steps



## Why Improvements Now?

**Our schools have been underfunded for decades**

**WE** have made do with the money we have,  
focusing on program excellence

**All buildings are in need of system updates**

**Our most recent major improvements, funded by a  
Bond passed in 1999, took place in 2005**

**The Bond Referendum to improve our buildings in  
2018 was voted down**

**WE** must move forward with another improvement  
plan



# What **WE** have been able to do this year

**HVAC Replacements - District-Wide in key areas**

**District-wide Interior LED Lighting and Ceiling Replacements**

**ADA Access Improvements - Outdoors (2021)  
Woodcrest Elementary and High School West**

**Stockton Elementary (2021) Roof Replacement**

**Partial Roof Replacements (2021) at Harte, Johnson,  
Paine Elementary Schools and Rosa Middle School**

**Emergency Generator Replacement (2021 - 2022) at  
Mann, Harte, Paine Elementary Schools & Rosa Middle  
School**



# The Process By Our District Architectural & Engineering Firms

- ✓ **Site Visits and Field Surveys of the School Facilities**
- ✓ **Evaluation of Facility Needs**
- ✓ **Identification of Specific Schools' Needs to Include Essential Health and Life Safety Building Systems**
- ✓ **Proposed Facility Solutions & Systems Replacements**
- ✓ **Estimate of Probable Costs**



# District-Wide Facility Assessment Findings -- Our Overall Needs:

- HVAC: Heating/Ventilation/AC - Improve Indoor Air Quality
- ADA - Exterior Site Work and Interior Work Including Bathrooms, etc.
- [Click to add text](#)  
Specialized Space Renovations/Reconfiguration - Instructional, Media Centers, APRs, Playgrounds
- Security - Expanded systems
- Technology and IT - Investing in new expanded infrastructure for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning challenges



## Why take on debt to improve our schools?

New Jersey helps fund school projects ONLY via Debt Service Aid. We must incur debt or borrow money in order to get money from the State.

We are debt free.

The state of NJ will fund 40% of the eligible costs of the money we borrow for improvements.

The District currently is carrying ZERO debt

The State will not allow school districts to carry over significant money to replace building systems from year to year



# Why don't we just build new schools?

- New construction is penalized
- The cost of new construction varies from region to region: between \$350/square foot and \$400/square foot
- The State only pays a maximum of 40% of “eligible costs” based on \$143/square foot new construction formula





# Renovation is the fiscally responsible answer

- Costs are not penalized
- The state pays 40% of “eligible costs” of renovations, based on the architect’s estimate, including soft costs, for all renovations
- State Aid = Significant cost savings for Taxpayer + getting our “fair share”

*Bottom line: NJ Districts that complete projects through Bond borrowing capture significant cost advantage.*



What are the  
needs for  
Knight  
Elementary  
School?

**Outdoors:** Playground, ADA Accessibility, Paving, Drainage, Existing Front Ramp/Stair(s), Signage

**Exterior of Building:** Roof Restoration, Masonry Repairs, Windows & Exterior Doors

**Interior of Building:** New Main Entrance Enhancements, Classroom Flooring, New Cabinetry, New Interior Doors with Intruder Hardware, Toilet Room Updates, All Purpose Room Renovations, New Finishes & Furniture in Library, ADA Interior Signage in all Areas

**HVAC:** Replace Existing Boilers, New Heating/Air Conditioning Units, New Exhaust Fans, Updated Controls

**Electrical Upgrades:** Security, PA System, Telecommunications, Convenience Outlets, Technology Upgrades

**Plumbing Upgrades**

**New Construction:** New APR and Elevator



**A. Russell Knight  
Elementary School**

Total Renovations\* Cost Estimate: \$12,350,791

Estimated Share State Will Pay: \$3,610,156

Local Share: \$8,740,635

[Detailed list of projects and specific costs available online.](#)

*\* Renovations = Architect's Estimate @ 40% State Aid*

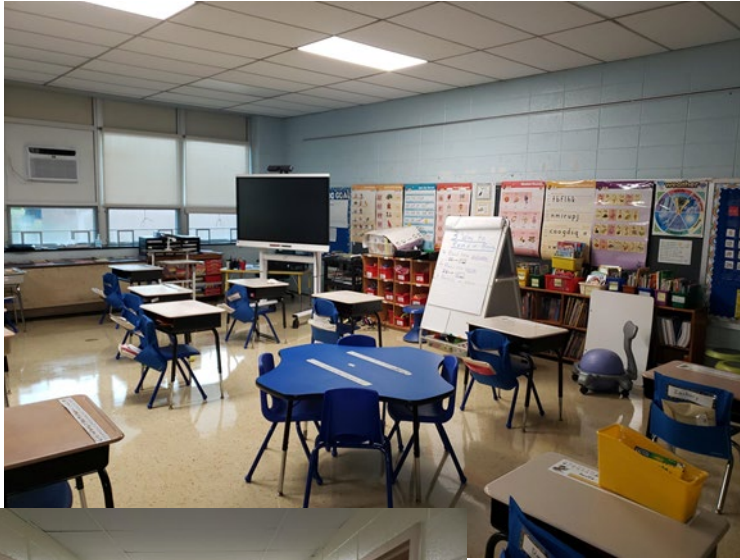


# CHERRY HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## KNIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Existing

Proposed





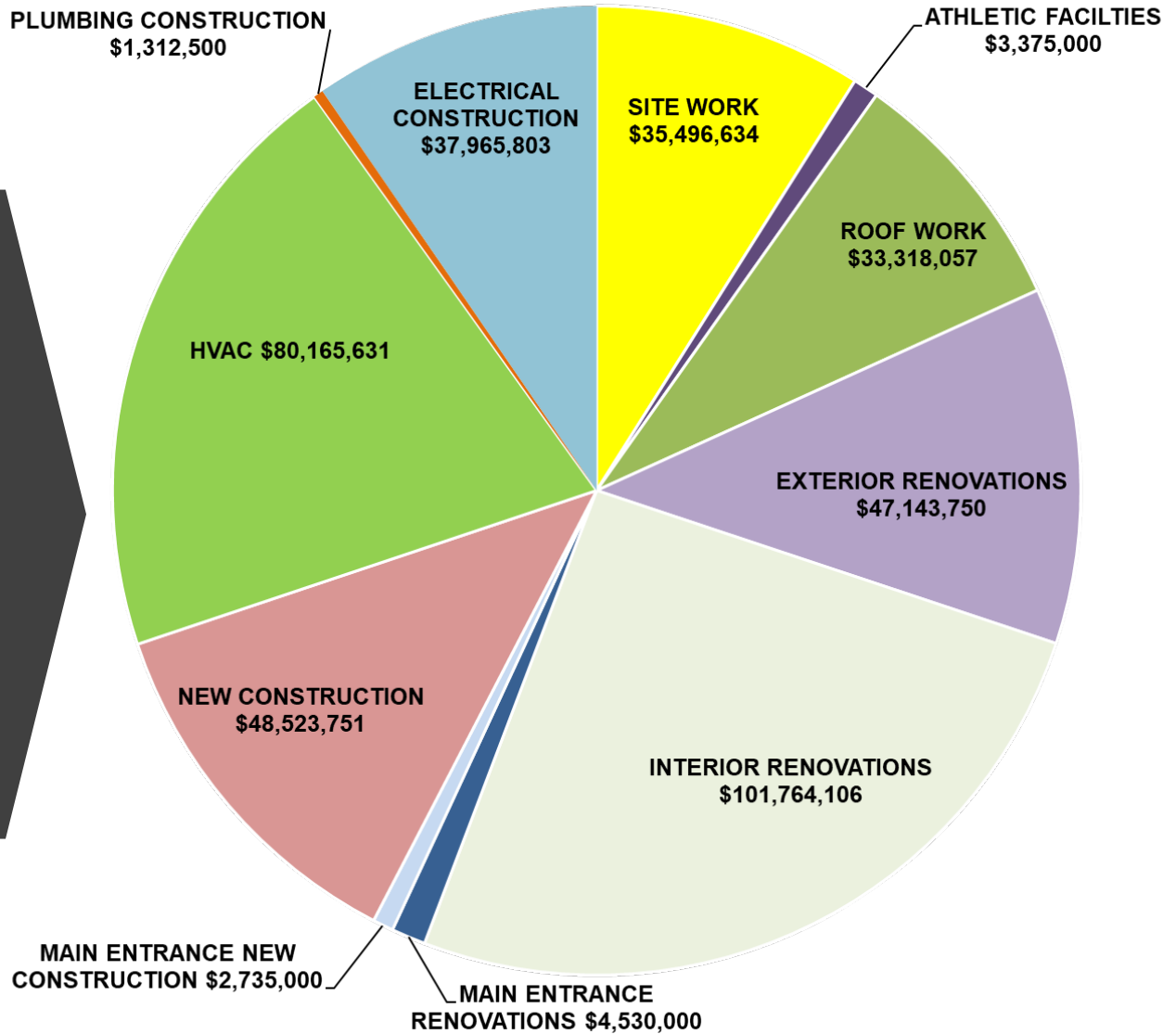
# **A. Russell Knight Elementary School**

Our needs are just one part of the District's overall needs...



# CHERRY HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

If EVERY NEED in the District were met by the next Bond, here is the breakdown of total costs...



**Total Estimated Cost: \$396,330,232**



## NEXT STEPS:



The Board of Education will seek community feedback



Information Sessions/Tours at all middle and high schools



Two Community Town Halls



Board announces final improvement plan with details on all projects



Bond Vote in Fall of 2022