



Alachua County's School Facilities Crisis

Alachua County's school buildings are in sad shape. Old, outdated classrooms, inadequate science labs, leaking roofs, air conditioners that constantly break down, portables crowding out playgrounds, students eating lunch at 9:45 in the morning—the evidence is everywhere. The average school building is 40 years old, and it shows not just in how they look, but in how they support teaching and learning.

In the last ten years, the state has cut facilities funding for local schools by \$168 million. That means the district has been mostly limited to basic repairs and improvements in the last few years and hasn't been able to keep up with routine maintenance.

During the November 2018 election, voters will be asked to approve a half-cent sales tax for school renovations, repairs, construction and other facility-related projects. If approved, the half-cent would last for twelve years and would bring in about \$22 million a year, much of it paid by out-of-county visitors. An independent citizens' oversight committee would make sure the money is spent the way voters intended.

For more than a year, the district has worked with the Alachua County Council of PTAs (ACCPTA) to gather input from parents, teachers and staff and community members about what is needed at each school. ACCPTA also conducted a communitywide survey. Outside consultants have reviewed every building on every campus. That input and information has been used to create a proposed project list for every school in the district. You'll find the list for your school on the other side of this sheet.

It is important to note that this plan does not include *every* project we'd like to do on each campus—even with the half-cent, there wouldn't be enough funding. But it does represent a large majority of those projects. That includes the renovation and modernization of most classrooms, which can include new furniture, technology infrastructure, lighting, flooring, painting, HVAC, roofing, etc.

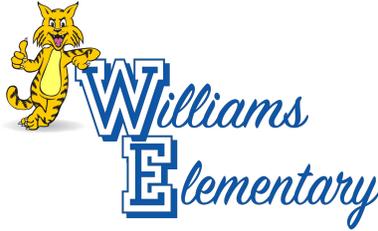
In addition, the list is based on the best information available today. Over the next twelve years, needs at a school may change—if a hurricane comes through, for example. Costs can also change as the price of materials and labor change. The district has built in some contingency funds and has tried to be conservative in developing a list of projects that can be completed at each school within the resources that will be available if the half-cent initiative is successful.

The district has also built in costs for getting back onto a regular maintenance cycle with roofs, air conditioners and other critical systems to prevent a crisis like this one in the future. Safety and security improvements at each school have also been factored into the district's overall plan.

Of course, getting these projects done depends on the approval of the Half-Cent for Schools. Should the initiative fail, it will get harder and harder for the district to keep up as our schools get older, our learning spaces fall further out-of-date and more critical systems fail.

Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that we have a safe, healthy and high-quality learning environment for all Alachua County Public School students—including those at your school!

For more information, please visit the district's website at www.sbac.edu or contact the Public Information Office at (352) 955-7545 or jackie.johnson@gm.sbac.edu.



Williams Elementary School

Year School Was Built	1938
Average Age of Buildings	48
Total Facilities Expenditures (since 2000):	\$2,656,880

Planned Projects:

- Security Improvements
- Construct 28 New Classrooms
- Construct New Media Center Building
- Demolish Buildings
- Renovate/Modernize 6 Existing Classrooms
- Renovate/Modernize Kitchen/Dining/Multi-purpose

Renovation/modernization may include new furniture, technical infrastructure, lighting, flooring, painting, HVAC, roofing, etc.