



SOUTH SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

FEB - 2026

To the South Seneca Central School District Community,

I am writing to share important information regarding the upcoming capital project vote scheduled for March 10, 2026, and to provide an overview of the work being proposed across the South Seneca Central School District.

This project has been developed in partnership with NYSERDA through the Energy Performance Contract and Clean Green programs. Its purpose is to modernize district facilities, improve energy efficiency, eliminate the district's dependence on heating fuel oil, and ensure safe, reliable learning environments for our students and staff, while maintaining fiscal responsibility for our community.

At Interlaken Elementary School, the proposed work includes LED lighting upgrades, mechanical controls improvements, building envelope enhancements, and an expansion of the air source mechanical units installed on the second floor as part of the previous ESSER-funded capital project.

At the Ovid Middle School and High School, the project includes LED lighting upgrades, mechanical controls improvements, and building envelope enhancements. Classrooms will receive new unit ventilators. The auditorium, library, and music suites will have coils replaced and connected to a new chiller system, while existing duct-mounted coils will remain in place for trim heat. District office units will be replaced to provide both heating and cooling capability. The gymnasium, locker rooms, and gym lobby systems will be modified to receive heating from the new geothermal plant; however, cooling will not be added at this time, as those systems were installed during the 2015 capital project and are not eligible for state aid replacement until 2030. In addition, the remaining second-floor spaces will be completed in a manner consistent with upgrades completed using ESSER funds in 2023.

Public presentations on the project were held on February, and the community vote is scheduled for March 10, 2026. The design phase is currently underway, with construction anticipated to begin between May and July 2026. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2027.

The total cost of the project is \$36.75 million. Of this amount, \$655,000 will be funded through the district's capital reserve, with the remaining \$36.095 million supported by NYSERDA funding, projected energy savings, and New York State Building Aid. This represents an approximately 90.22 percent aided project. There is no additional increase in local taxes associated with this project. To cover initial interest expenses prior to the receipt of state aid, the district may contribute up to \$813,000 from the debt service fund, ensuring there is no impact on the tax levy.

This project addresses mechanical equipment identified in the district's Building Condition Survey, supports new state requirements for heating and cooling systems, transitions the district away from heating fuel oil, improves energy efficiency, reduces long-term utility costs, and preserves future capital improvement capacity. Most importantly, it provides modern, safe, and sustainable learning environments for our students without placing an additional financial burden on district residents.

We encourage all community members to attend the upcoming presentations and participate in the vote on March 10, 2026. Your involvement plays an important role in shaping the future of our schools.

Thank you for your continued support of the South Seneca Central School District.

Sincerely,

Kyle R. Colunio | Superintendent of Schools
South Seneca Central School District

VOTE INFO

 **March 10, 2026**

 **1:00 - 8:00 PM**

 **Ovid Lower
Cafeteria**





CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Q. WHAT IMPACT WILL THE NYSERDA PROJECT HAVE ON STUDENTS AND STAFF?

A. Our priority is to complete as much of the work as possible during the summer months to minimize disruption. During the school year, there may be temporary "swing spaces" used for up to a few weeks at a time. This means that students and staff may be relocated to different classrooms while new plumbing is installed and/or new ventilation units are put in place. These temporary adjustments may be necessary on both campuses. We will work to ensure transitions are smooth and disruptions are kept to a minimum.

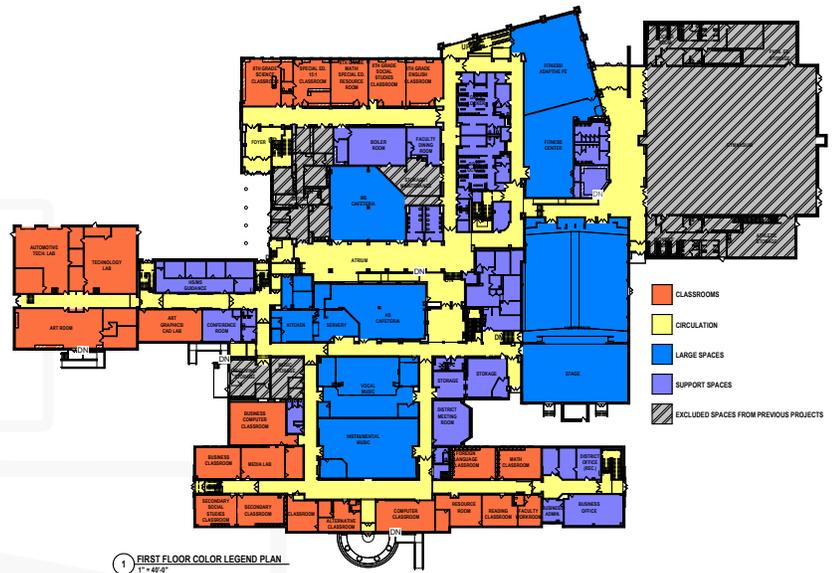
Q. WHY IS THIS PROJECT BEING PROPOSED?

A. The SSCSD Middle/High School is currently heated by fuel oil, requiring approximately 90,000-100,000 gallons annually. This system is inefficient and does not provide cooling for building spaces. In addition, many of the mechanical systems across both campuses are aging and in need of replacement or significant upgrades.

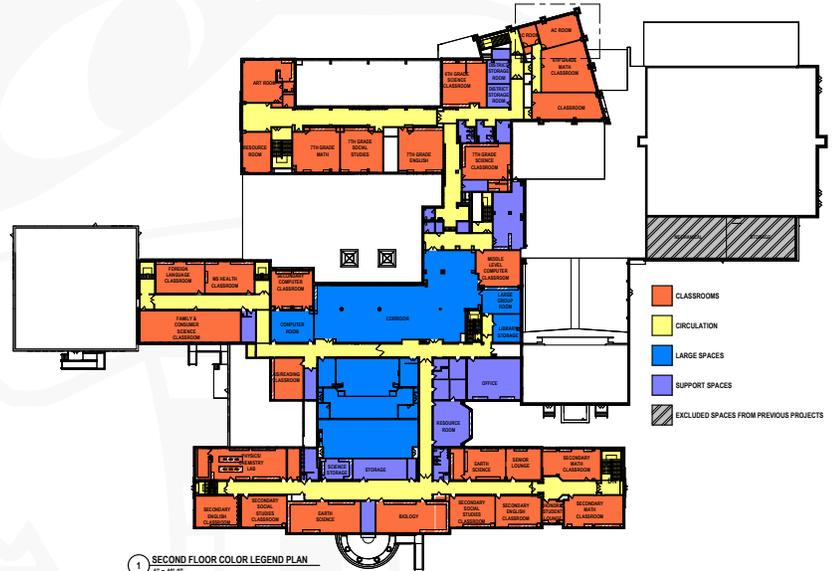
This project would allow the district to replace or upgrade most existing mechanical equipment. Areas that received new units as part of the 2015 project would not require replacement. The upgrades would also help the district comply with updated state mandates regarding minimum and maximum temperatures in student-occupied spaces.

Q. WHAT IS THE TAXPAYER IMPACT?

A. The project is not expected to result in any additional tax impact to local taxpayers. This is possible because the district plans to utilize available capital reserves and debt service reserves to offset any local share remaining after receipt of the NYSERDA grant. These funds were specifically set aside for capital improvements of this project's nature.



1 FIRST FLOOR COLOR LEGEND PLAN
1" = 48"



1 SECOND FLOOR COLOR LEGEND PLAN
1" = 48"

THE CAPITAL PROJECT AT A GLANCE

WHAT: District-wide energy and HVAC upgrades using NYSERDA and Energy Performance Contract (EPC) funding.

IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

1. LED lighting, controls, and building envelope upgrades
2. Ovid Campus: 100% electric geothermal heating/cooling
3. Interlaken Campus: Expanded air-source heating/cooling

TIMELINE: Design underway • Construction May/July 2026 • Completion December 2027

COST & TAXES: \$36.75M total • 90%+ state-aided • No additional tax increases

WHY NOW: Meets state requirements, replaces aging systems, improves efficiency, lowers long-term costs.

VOTE **March 10, 2026, 1:00 - 8:00 PM**
 Ovid Lower Cafeteria

For project related questions, please contact the South Seneca CSD office at (607) 869-9636

VOTER ELIGIBILITY: Citizen of U.S. // At least 18 years of age // Legal resident of the South Seneca Central School District at least 30 days prior to vote // **You do not need to be a registered voter**