



To: Duxbury School Committee
From: Lisa Freeley, Director of Business & Finance
Danielle Klingaman, Ed.D., Superintendent
Subject: FY2028 School Capital
Date: October 7, 2026

The Duxbury Public Schools Capital Budget represents the first critical step in our annual financial planning. Built on Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 44 and Chapter 70, as well as the Town of Duxbury Financial Management Policies, our strategic capital framework uses an Asset-Based Replacement Model and a 5-Year Capital Plan to protect town-owned physical assets, ensure operational continuity, and prevent catastrophic failures.

In recent fiscal cycles, Duxbury's school and municipal capital needs have increased significantly, while available funding remained limited, compounding deferred maintenance across school facilities, building systems, and instructional technology.

The district takes a disciplined approach to capital prioritization. Capital requests typically originate from the Director of Facilities and the Chief Technology Officer, with input from the building Principals. Through prioritization, leadership reduced initial requests to 20.3% of the total FY28 identified need, prioritizing essential safety, infrastructure, and instructional items. Over 79% of identified capital needs have been postponed to balance municipal fiscal constraints.

Over the past few years, unprecedented inflation in construction labor, roofing materials, mechanical equipment, HVAC, and technology hardware has reshaped capital planning. Deferring necessary repairs, such as compromised roofs and failing HVAC, no longer saves money; it exponentially increases future replacement costs because of compounding material inflation and structural degradation. Our FY28 prioritized plan balances immediate fiscal restraint with protecting Duxbury's physical assets from escalating long-term repair costs.

FY28 Prioritized Capital Requests

- Facilities - \$1,065,000
 - Heating and Ventilation (HVAC) - \$570,000

Given the extensive amount of HVAC equipment in the schools, we need to ensure the HVAC systems operate efficiently and reach their full expected lifespan; several components and devices require replacement or upgrades. A one-time capital investment would not be sufficient to maintain the system long-term. Instead, we recommend a phased, sustainable approach to upgrades and replacements over time to extend the system's operational life and avoid future costly breakdowns.

 - Key priority installations for FY28 include Chandler Office Rooftop Unit (RTU), Alden 104 Univent, Chandler Gym, and other Districtwide HVAC

- Building Infrastructure and Envelope - \$450,000
 Maintaining building infrastructure is vital to preserving structural integrity, preserving moisture infiltration, ensuring healthy indoor air quality, and protecting interior educational spaces from costly environmental damage. Following the comprehensive roof audit conducted by The Garland Company, Inc. (March 2023), the district continues to systematically address severely compromised roof sections to protect the building envelope
 - Primary projects include the Alden cafeteria, addressing compromised roof sections past their serviceable life, and targeted Chandler School flooring replacement in high-wear areas to eliminate tripping hazards and maintain clean, safe floor surfaces.
- Facilities Equipment and Furnishings - \$105,000
 Supports scheduled asset replacements required for daily operations, including school furniture to replace damaged or broken team and classroom furniture and a commercial grounds mower to support districtwide athletic field and facility grounds maintenance.
- Technology Infrastructure and Instructional Technology - \$1,000,000
 - Core Switch - The district's core network switch is approaching nine years old and routes and connects all of our schools. Every device on our network, including computers, phones, wireless access points, security cameras, door locks, and other building systems, relies on this equipment. It also connects our school buildings to the town through our municipal fiber network. Given its age and critical role in our infrastructure, this device represents a significant single point of failure and an increasing operational and security risk. Proactive replacement is necessary to maintain network security, reliability, and operational continuity across the district.
 - Classroom Audio Topcat Systems - Our classroom audio systems have also exceeded their expected useful life, with some equipment originally due for replacement in 2019. The existing Topcat and Lightspeed systems are beyond their supported lifecycles, and replacement microphones and other parts are becoming nearly impossible to locate. These systems are particularly important for students with IEPs and other accommodations that require classroom audio support. Continued reliance on unsupported equipment increases the risk of classroom disruptions and our inability to consistently provide required accommodations. Replacement is necessary to keep these systems reliable and ensure we can continue meeting all students' needs.
 - Classroom Projectors/Displays - Our high school and middle school projectors are now approximately 13 years old, well beyond the recommended 7-8 year replacement cycle. Based on industry standards, these devices should have been replaced beginning in FY21, and we've managed to get nearly twice their expected useful life out of them. We're now experiencing more frequent failures, replacement parts are increasingly difficult to source, and interactive functionality has become unreliable in most classrooms. These projectors are essential to daily instruction, and continued

reliance on equipment that has significantly exceeded its expected useful life increases the risk of failures and disruptions to teaching and learning. Proactive replacement is necessary to maintain reliable instructional technology in our classrooms.

- Student Chromebook Lease, Year 4 of 4 - In FY28, the Duxbury School Department will be in year four of a four-year Chromebook lease. The decision was made to lease the student laptops to be as fiscally responsible as possible with predictable yearly costs and to minimize costly laptop repairs by owning our own devices.
- Staff Device Lease, Year 2 of 5 - In FY28, the Duxbury School Department will be in year two of a five-year MacBook lease. The decision was made to lease staff laptops to be as fiscally responsible as possible, with predictable yearly costs, and to minimize costly laptop repairs by owning our own devices.

Major Capital Milestone: Alden School Building Project (MSBA)

Duxbury has officially advanced into the Feasibility Study and Schematic Design Phase of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) program. Following the successful passage of the Town Meeting warrant article and subsequent election debt exclusion in March 2026, the town has secured dedicated funding to conduct an exhaustive, in-depth evaluation and analysis of the existing school building, assess educational needs, and explore renovation, addition, or new construction options to determine the solution that best meets the needs of students and the community.

Long-Term Capital Planning

Duxbury Public Schools has developed a [long-term Capital plan](#) spanning Athletics, Facilities, Music, Technology, Curriculum, and District Operations. However, given the fiscal challenges the Duxbury community continues to face, the district has postponed prioritized capital requests until funding is identified or the priority need escalates. The FY28 Prioritized Capital Budget of \$2,125,200 represents a balanced, disciplined approach that protects critical health, safety, building envelope, network security, and instructional assets while respecting the Town's current fiscal realities.