



NEWS RELEASE

News from Orange County Public Schools

School Renovations to Continue With Passage of Half-Penny Sales Tax

Aug. 26, 2014 – Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) will move forward with renovations at 59 schools across the district now that funding has been approved by electors. Nearly 64% of voters in the primary election approved renewal of the half-penny sales tax responsible for the renovation of existing schools and upgrades to classroom technology.

"We thank Orange County voters for their continued confidence in Orange County public schools," said School Board Chairman Bill Sublette. "Their support truly makes a difference in the quality of schools and the lives of our community's children."

"Thanks to Orange County voters for their support of our students," said Dr. Barbara Jenkins, OCPS Superintendent. "All of our students deserve the best learning environment on secure campuses with 21st century technology in their classrooms. Now we'll be able to provide that."

The tax is expected to raise \$2 billion before it expires in 2025. Through a comprehensive facilities assessment, the district identified 59 schools that still need major renovations or replacement. A portion of the sales tax proceeds will be used for capital renewal of major building systems at other schools. This includes climate control, plumbing, electrical and building envelope components before they fail.

"Thanks to voters, we can continue our building program that benefits Orange County students," commented John Morris, Chief Facilities Officer for OCPS. "We will also continue looking for efficiencies in our construction and facilities operations to benefit taxpayers."

Proceeds from the 2002 half-penny sales tax, which expires Dec. 31, 2015, will have funded the renovations or replacements of 94 schools. The renewed sales tax will take effect Jan. 1, 2016.

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