



E-SPLOST²⁰²⁴

FACT SHEET

What is a SPLOST for education?

The Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax for education, also known as E-SPLOST, is a one-cent sales tax on all retail and online sales in Columbia County. This means that everyone who makes a purchase in Columbia County, including visitors, contributes to the support of local schools. By law, an E-SPLOST can be used only for certain capital projects and equipment, like buildings, furniture, buses, and computers. It cannot be used for salaries or for daily operational expenses of a school system or district.

Is the proposed E-SPLOST a new tax? How long would it be in effect?

The E-SPLOST is not a new tax; it is a continuation of the one-cent tax already being collected on sales. If voters approve the extension, the penny sales tax would continue to be collected for a five-year period or until the specified amount is collected.

How much would the proposed E-SPLOST raise for the school district?

A maximum of \$270 million is projected to be raised in the five-year collection period of the E-SPLOST. Accompanying GO bonds will generate up to \$270 million.

The ballot question mentions \$270 million in GO bonds that will be approved as well. Why are bonds needed?

This will be the third consecutive E-SPLOST to include approval of GO bonds as part of the ballot question. The school district's needs continue to outpace the funding it receives through E-SPLOST. The need for more modern classrooms and technology, as well as infrastructure and safety enhancements, continues. The sale of GO bonds allows the CCSD to address some of those needs more quickly.



1 Invest in Our Schools Without Raising Taxes

Voting yes continues the existing one-cent sales tax, ensuring essential upgrades for schools like new classrooms, buses, and security enhancements—without increasing taxes.

2 Modernize and Expand School Facilities

Renovations and classroom additions at six schools will create space for growing student populations, improving learning environments and maintaining high educational standards.

3 Enhance Technology and Safety for Students

Your vote supports vital technology upgrades, like new devices and improved infrastructure, as well as enhanced safety measures to keep our schools secure.

4 Address Needs Across All Schools

E-SPLOST will help address needs at every school in Columbia County, from building maintenance to student support facility upgrades, ensuring all students benefit.

5 Support Long-Term Financial Health

The funding will also allow the district to pay off existing bonds, avoiding future financial strain while continuing improvements that keep our schools competitive.

What Happens If E-SPLOST Does Not Pass?

If E-SPLOST is not renewed, the Columbia County School District will face **significant challenges** in maintaining and improving our schools. Here's what you need to know:

X Crucial Projects Will Be Delayed or Canceled

Without E-SPLOST funding, much-needed renovations, classroom additions, and maintenance at seven schools will be postponed or canceled. This includes Evans, Lakeside, Harlem, Greenbrier, and Grovetown High Schools, as well as Grovetown Middle and Elementary Schools.

X Technology and Safety Upgrades at Risk

Our students will miss out on essential technology upgrades and infrastructure improvements that enhance learning. Safety enhancements designed to protect our children could also be delayed, leaving schools vulnerable.

X Limited Funding for Critical Needs

E-SPLOST provides \$270 million in funding, which addresses current and future needs across all schools. Without it, we will struggle to maintain facilities, purchase new buses, or meet ongoing student support needs.

X Rising Costs for Future Projects

Delaying school improvements means that future construction and technology costs will increase, putting more strain on district resources. The cost to make necessary upgrades will only grow over time.

X Impact on Classroom Environments

Without the additional classroom space and facility improvements, overcrowding in schools may worsen, affecting student learning conditions and limiting our ability to provide the best education possible.

Important Voting Dates:

- Absentee by Mail Voting: August 19 – October 25
- In-Person Voting: October 15 – November 5
- Voter Registration Deadline: October 7
- Election Day: November 5 (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.)

KEEP OUR SCHOOLS STRONG! Vote YES on November 5!