

# WHY DO WE NEED THIS?

Enrollment and capacity issues continue to be the main reason more construction is needed. Cape Henlopen School District enrollment has grown from 4,150 students in 2001 to 5,451 students in September 2017. This is an increase of 1,301 students since 2001. Population studies show our enrollment will continue to increase significantly over the next 20 years. The proposed high school expansion and proposed additional middle school will give us the additional secondary level capacity we need to keep up with enrollment growth. The State of Delaware has recognized the need for these building projects (totaling \$55,578,900) and has agreed to contribute \$34,197,700 if we are able to pass a local referendum to raise the other \$21,381,200. **Cape Henlopen School District was the only school district in the State to receive an approved major capital request Certificate of Necessity this year. The State recognized the need of our request based on enrollment and capacity. All projects requested by other school districts were denied this year by the State.**

## FAQ

**Q. What is included in the referendum proposal?**

A new 600 student middle school to be located on the current District owned Lewes property and an expansion to Cape Henlopen High School for additional classrooms, offices, Sussex Consortium classrooms and cafeteria space. The referendum also includes an increase in current expense taxes to address operating expenses associated with opening an additional middle school building.

**Q. How much will the major capital improvements cost?**

The total of all projects will cost \$55,578,900. The local portion funded through referendum would be \$21,381,200.

**Q. How much will this increase my property taxes? What is the new debt service tax rate the school district is seeking?**

Thanks to a unique set of circumstances, we are able to ask our community for approval to build these new projects without raising debt service taxes above the pre-approved rates from past referendums.

**Q. Where will the new middle school be located?**

Cape Henlopen School District is very fortunate to have enough space available on their current Lewes sites to accommodate a new middle school and athletic fields. The main building will be located on the current Shields Elementary site and the athletic fields will be part of the campus connection located behind the Lewes School building and the Fred Thomas building.

**Q. How is it possible for no debt service tax increase over previous approved tax rates?**

Our assessment base continues to grow. The new homes and businesses being built are contributing towards the debt that was authorized in previous referendums. The State of Delaware's strong bond rating has also allowed us to borrow at lower rates than anticipated. We continue to pay off some previously issued bonds and pay down others, reducing our District's debt. The State of Delaware will fund 60% of the new construction costs if referendum is approved.

**Q. Is there a current operating expense included in the proposal?**

Yes, there will be a current operating expense included with these projects. Opening an additional middle school building and expanding the high school will cause an increase in District utility costs, staffing costs and other operational expenses. The proposed increase in current operating expense tax is 5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation effective July 1, 2019 and then an additional 15 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation effective July 1, 2022 (for a total of 20 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation) will be used for current operating expenses. For the average household in our District, this equates to approximately \$11.55 per year starting July 1, 2019 and an additional \$34.65 per year starting July 1, 2022.

### Cape Henlopen School District

1270 Kings Highway  
Lewes, DE 19958  
(302) 645-6686



**PLEASE  
VOTE**

# Referendum Vote March 20, 2018

**Polling Locations | 10am - 8pm**

Cape Henlopen High School  
Mariner Middle School  
Rehoboth Elementary School

All citizens of the State of Delaware who reside in the Cape Henlopen School District and who are 18 years of age or older (by federal law) are eligible to vote. It is not necessary that a prospective voter be registered to vote in a general election to vote in this election. Absentee voting will be provided through the Department of Elections. Individuals eligible to vote by absentee ballot should contact the Department of Elections for Sussex County at (302) 856-5367.



# WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THIS PROJECT?

- Construction of a new 600 student middle school (\$39,544,900) located on current District owned land in Lewes (Shields elementary property and connecting District owned parcels).
- Additions to Cape Henlopen High School (\$13,908,300) for 20 classrooms, offices, cafeteria expansion and other site improvements.
- Addition to Cape Henlopen High School (\$2,125,700) for 4 Sussex Consortium Classrooms – NOT part of the local referendum, 100% State funded.

# CONCEPTUAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

CHHS: July 2018 - July 2021  
Middle School: July 2021 - July 2023  
(pending State funding schedule)



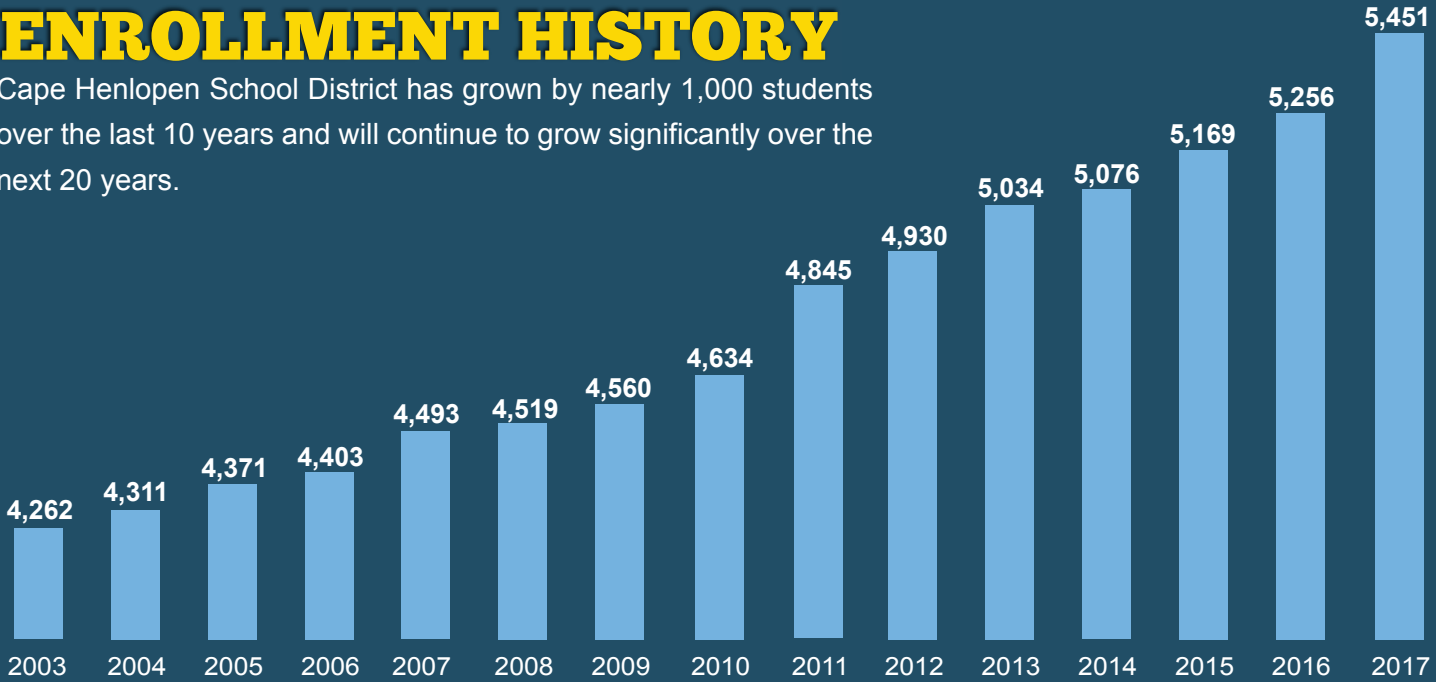
New Middle School



High School Addition

# ENROLLMENT HISTORY

Cape Henlopen School District has grown by nearly 1,000 students over the last 10 years and will continue to grow significantly over the next 20 years.



# COST TO LOCAL TAX PAYERS

**Debt Service Tax** - No local debt service tax increase above the pre-approved rates established from past referendums.

**Current Operating Expense**- An increase in operational expense of 5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation effective July 1, 2019 and then an additional 15 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation effective July 1, 2022 (for a total of 20 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation) will be used for current operating expenses. For the average household in our District, this equates to approximately \$11.55 per year starting July 1, 2019 and an additional \$34.65 per year starting July 1, 2022.

**Cape Henlopen High School**  
State Share (60%) = \$8,345,000  
**Local Share (40%) = \$5,563,300**  
Total = \$13,908,300

**Consortium Classrooms at CHHS**  
**Local Share (0%) = \$0**

**600 Student Middle School**  
State Share (60%) = \$23,727,000  
**Local Share (40%) = \$15,817,900**  
Total = \$39,544,900