

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds be spent?

ESSER funds will be used for the auxiliary gym/storm shelter projects at both high schools. The district plans to use bonded funds for the middle school addition at Southside and the central office project. Funding for Hanson Elementary School, where construction is underway, was previously bonded and is restricted for that project.

What will happen to the 302 students who will have no school?

Every student in our district will be assigned to a school. Kentucky law requires school districts to provide school services for every child who resides within their school district.

Why do people on Facebook know the “whole plan,” while the public doesn’t?

There are many rumors on social media that are not true. This project is 2-3 years away from completion so the plan has not been finalized.

Why are no members of the Local Planning Committee from the south end of the county?

The LPC includes representatives from each school. Members were initially selected in fall 2018 for a four-year term. South end representatives include Scott Moore, Earlington Elementary teacher; Kilee Beshear, South Hopkins Middle teacher; Travis Ipox, Southside Elementary community member; and Jon Wells, Hopkins County Central High principal.

Was enrollment considered in this process?

Yes, enrollment has been a big consideration. The enrollment numbers on the District Facilities Plan are from fall 2018. Numbers have declined since then. Current district enrollment is 6,155. This is a 9% decline in enrollment since 2015-2016 and a 5 percent decline since 2018-2019. Kentucky State Data Center at the University of Louisville estimates that the county will continue to see a population decrease during the next decade.

Will redistricting result in students being sent to West Hopkins School?

The board does not intend to redistrict students to West Hopkins.

Were transportation times considered?

The amount of time students would ride buses has been considered. This plan will have no significant impact on current student transportation times. Earlington Elementary is about 5 miles from Southside Elementary, which is about 7 minutes travel time. SHMS is only 460 feet from Southside.

Will elementary and middle school students regularly interact in a P-8 school?

No, architects can design the facility to address this concern.

Why doesn't the plan for the middle school addition at Southside include enough space for all the students at SHMS?

The DFP indicates space based on the minimum standard set by the state. There are mechanisms in place for the addition to be larger than what is on the plan.

Will everything on the DFP be done?

No, the DFP is a guideline identifying the overall facility needs of the district. It is a "wish list" and there is no requirement that all projects be completed.

Why is this being done in an area where there is a flood hazard?

According to FEMA maps, the SHMS / SES area is not in a flood zone.

Why did the district choose to work on the Central Office piece first?

The Central Office portion, as well as the auxiliary gyms sections of the amended DFP, were on the previous facilities plan. Thus, progress on those items could begin prior to the approval of the amendment by the Kentucky Board of Education.

If the district is facility heavy with a declining population, why are we not consolidating the high schools?

Consolidation of the high schools would require at least \$100 million in bonding capacity, which is much less than the funding that is available.

Were there any gauges on the emotional effect this project may have?

That is not part of the guidelines of the LPC process established by the Kentucky Department of Education. This is not a decision the board takes lightly. Consideration is given to the best way to serve students 20-30 years from now.

Why is money more important than an individual student?

Our students are the most important thing in this process. We are proud of these schools, students and staff. We believe the kids, teachers, staff, and parents form the school community, not the building.

Is it safe to put students at this location?

Studies are done at the state level to determine whether school districts can build at certain locations. They visit the site and scrutinize many things, including safety.

Has a cost-benefit analysis been done?

We have analyzed the numbers and do see a cost savings from the SHMS/EES/SES project.

Has a storm shelter been considered for the new school?

Storm shelters do not have to be listed on the DFP in order for it to be considered in the project. A shelter can still be added.

Will the students who are already on special permission at South Hopkins Middle School or Earlington Elementary be grandfathered in?

This is a 2-3 year project at best. Redistricting would be looked at closer to project completion, but Special Permission students will be included.

Did the district consider financial ramifications to the city of Earlington?

District officials have looked at how the project would affect HCS now and in the future.