

Henderson County Schools

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Statement of Commitment

Throughout the entire nickel initiative the Henderson County Schools has been committed to listening, informing, and educating the citizens of the Henderson County Schools of the need, the cost to the citizens, and the benefits for our students. Whether it is our favorite topic at the coffee shop, gas station, restaurant, or Wal-Mart the Henderson County Schools will continue to answer questions and remain transparent.

As we move forward the commitment to use the new nickel revenue will be intentional and transparent. The nickel revenue can be used for renovation and new construction. Not all of our schools need to be replaced, but our needs assessments indicate all schools need some type of upgrade and repair. We focused the nickel initiative on three areas based on our District Facility Plan:

1. Learning spaces for students – renovate, reconfigure classrooms and spaces
2. Capital maintenance – upgrade and repair failing, inefficient systems (i.e. roofing, HVAC, energy efficiencies, bathroom renovations, science labs, paving, athletic complexes, etc.)
3. Technology – infrastructure, security, networks and resources

Our focus will continue in these areas. Our District Facility Plan was created in 2012 by a committee of teachers, parents, and community members. The plan was approved by the local board and the Kentucky Department of Education.

NOTE: Spottsville and CTE renovation were approved by the board prior to the nickel initiative. These two projects are already approved by the Kentucky Department of Education with existing funds.

Bonding capacity and reality, available manpower, and most importantly minimal disruption to students' learning will all be taken into consideration as the decisions of the pace (timeline) of the work to be completed are determined. We will continue to remain transparent and post our progress to HCS web page and social media outlets.

Our current District Facility Plan prioritizes the district's needs into categories. The first two priorities listed are to replace:

1. Spottsville Elementary School-which the board has already approved to construct using existing funds
2. Jefferson Elementary School-which we will be able to construct with the new revenue from the Nickel Tax

These are the only two schools in the District Facility Plan approved to be replaced.

Then there are many, many other priorities each school has listed in the District Facility Plan. Some of these have been completed since 2012 using Capital Outlay money or General Fund money. The district administration will conduct a needs assessment by interviewing each principal and school staff and reviewing budgets and paid warrants to determine the scope of work remaining.

Our goal is to present our findings to the board in March 2016 (sooner if it is ready).

Throughout the Nickel Initiative we stated that if the Nickel Tax was levied, Jefferson Elementary School would be replaced by the 4th year. The Nickel revenue actually allows our bonding capacity the ability to do this sooner. However, we need to review our current bonding potential vs our debt reality. My recommendation is that we build an understanding of our finances with new revenue, conduct a district needs assessment, start a plan and conversation with KDE to understand the process and options for Jefferson Elementary School to ensure we are building by year four.