



SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

THE NEW J.M. TAWES TECHNOLOGY & CAREER CENTER



For the past few years, Somerset County parents, community members, Board of Education members, the Superintendent, and countless others have been envisioning an educational facility that could provide the type of Career and Technology training that Somerset County students deserve.

In the summer of 2014, Somerset County Public Schools began carefully evaluating the existing program offerings at the JM Tawes Technology and Career Center. Through a very thorough process that included analyzing labor market data and gathering stakeholder input, the Board of Education and the school's leadership team considered potential program offerings. At the same time, a team of professional Architects and Engineers evaluated the adequacy of the existing building systems and infrastructure to support the increasingly technology-intensive programs. The groups visited Career and Technology Education (CTE) schools in neighboring counties, spoke with fellow administrators and teachers, read reports, met with local government and business owners, and proposed solutions to the deficiencies identified in the current facility.

After several months of investigations, both groups concluded that the current facility is unable to efficiently and effectively accommodate current and future program and training requirements. Their recommendation was to pursue the development of a new facility that would meet current and future program needs. Copies of that comprehensive Feasibility Study are available for viewing at the Central Office.

Following the acceptance of the feasibility study findings by the Somerset County Commissioners, the Board of Education, and the MD Public School Construction Program, the team began developing Educational Specifications, Design Documents, and ultimately Bidding and Construction Documents. After a period of bidding and State and Local approvals, Somerset County Public Schools proudly broke ground on the new facility on November 7, 2017!

“...to support the increasingly technology - driven programs...”

The new facility will be open for the 2019-2020 school year!

For more information visit us at www.somerset.k12.md.us

PROPOSED PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

Administrative Services (Accounting & Marketing)

Construction Trades Carpentry

IT Networking Academy

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (Criminal Justice)

Culinary Arts

Building Maintenance HVAC

Academy of Health Professions (Nursing)

Interactive Media Production

Biomedical Sciences

Horticulture Services***

Medium-Heavy*** Truck Technician

Pre-Engineering*** Project Lead the Way

Teacher Academy of Maryland

Fire Science

Automotive Technology

New Programs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will my child be able to attend the new J.M. Tawes?

A: Students graduating in 2020 or later will have the opportunity to attend the new J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center.

Q: Are there any new programs being added? Have any programs been removed?

A: Three new Maryland Programs of Study will be added to the new facility: Pre-Engineering Project Lead the Way, Medium-Heavy Truck Technician, and Horticulture. All existing programs will remain and will be aligned with the Maryland Programs of Study curriculums.

Q: How were the new programs selected? Why were some programs left out?

A: Several steps were taken to develop the final list of program offerings. Those steps included gathering local market data, examining employment trends, surveying current students, and assessing programs in the neighboring jurisdictions. Some programs were proposed but ultimately not supported by the Maryland Division of Career and College Readiness due to the lack of post-graduate employment opportunities in specific fields here in Somerset County.

Q: Who will pay for the construction of this new building?

A: The Maryland Public School Construction Program obtains funding through annual appropriations submitted in the Governor's budget and approved by the Maryland General Assembly and allocates that funding to projects throughout the State each year as a part of the Capital Improvement process. Somerset County has a State-Local cost share percentage of 100%. This means that, pending an extensive approval process, the State will pay for 100% of eligible construction costs. The local government will be responsible for the remaining ineligible costs such as: architectural/engineering design fees, building permits, local building inspections, test borings, topographical surveys, movable furniture, furnishings and equipment, and other miscellaneous ineligible costs.

Q: What's going to happen to the old building?

A: The existing JM Tawes Technology and Career Center is currently shared with the Board of Education staff. The building will remain the central office for Somerset County Public Schools once the new Technology and Career Center has been completed. The new building will be on the same campus but in an area that is currently undeveloped.

PROJECT TIMELINE

SEP 2014 | START FEASIBILITY STUDY

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS | OCT 2014

NOV 2014 | BOARD APPROVAL OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

START EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS | JUNE 2015

OCT 2015 | BOARD APPROVAL EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

LOCAL FUNDING | APPROVAL PHASE

MAY 2016 | START DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

DESIGN PHASE

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS | PHASE

BIDDING PERIOD | SEP 2017

NOV 2017 | BEGIN CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

STUDENTS OCCUPY NEW BUILDING | AUG 2019

PUNCH LIST PHASE

NOV 2019 | FINAL CLOSEOUT OF PROJECT

[NOTE: TIMELINE IS PRELIMINARY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING STATE AND LOCAL APPROVALS]