

Charlton County Schools release information about timeline for new school construction

The students, teachers, and staff of the Charlton County School District would like to once again thank the voters of Charlton County for their support for our schools in renewing the 1% sales tax (SPLOST) in the May 2022 Primary election. The SPLOST was renewed for five years, from 2023-2027. As January begins and the first collections from the new SPLOST start coming in, we want to provide an update on the projected timeline for construction of a new Charlton County High School, which was the primary project to be completed with SPLOST funds.

Below is a bulleted list with the expected timeline for the project. This is just an estimate, and could change based on factors beyond the district's control such as the supply chain issues that have affected nearly all industries in recent years. Following the list is a more detailed description of each phase.

Early 2024 – Completion of the design phase by our architects

Spring 2024 – Project is opened for bids from contractors

Early Summer 2024 – Bids are received and vetted by the general contractor

Late Summer 2024 – Final Cost is computed after changes to the design are made (if needed) to remain within the school district's budget.

Fall 2024 – Construction of a new Charlton County High School begins

Fall 2026 – Construction of the new Charlton County High School is complete.

Design Process

The architectural firm for the project, James W. Buckley and Associates, is now beginning the design phase of the project. The design phase generally takes 8-12 months to complete. During this time, the architects meet with teachers, administrators, maintenance staff, students, and other stakeholders to get their input on the design of the facility to help ensure that it meets the needs of our school. One of the reasons for the extensive time taken for completion of the design phase is the time it takes for approval of the plans by the Georgia Department of Education at various steps of the design.

Bid Process

After the design is complete and approved by the Georgia Department of Education, the plans will be put out for bid. After all bids have been received, the general contractor will meet with school district leaders to discuss costs and determine if adjustments to building plans are needed to reduce costs in order to remain within budget. Any final changes to building plans will be made at that time.

Construction Process

Construction will likely take 1.5 to 2 years to complete. The new high school will be built on the same site as the existing school. Factors such as the exact location for the new building, parking locations, etc. will be determined during the design phase.

We want to again thank you for your support of the Charlton County School District. We are excited about this project and look forward to seeing the completion of a brand new facility for the students of Charlton County!