

How are School District construction projects scheduled?

In 1999 the School District of Palm Beach County embarked on an aggressive campaign to build new schools, to accommodate the tremendous student growth of more than 5,000 students every year! The School Board hired an outside consulting firm to assess the current condition of its facilities and develop a long term plan to meet the future facility needs of the District. In 2003 the School Board conducted a follow-up facility assessment to help prioritize and rank the school modernizations within its long-range construction plan. Both the 1999 and 2003 facility assessment reports have been used as a roadmap to guide our construction decisions. To keep pace with the County's population growth, the citizens of Palm Beach County voted to approve a Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum in November 2004, to build new schools and modernize older ones. As a result of the Referendum, a specific list of construction projects were created and promised to the taxpayers of Palm Beach. For more information about the Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum, please click on the link below:

<http://www.palmbeachschools.org/planning/Referendum/Index.asp>

The School District collaborates with all of its stakeholders throughout the year to ensure the 1999 and 2003 assessments, along with the 2004 Referendum are incorporated into the decision-making process for ranking and scheduling construction projects. Stakeholder committees, such as: the Construction Oversight and Review, Individual Sales Surtax Oversight, and Finance Committees meet with District staff to ensure that capital construction dollars are invested wisely and aligned to the District mission and goals. Monthly School Board Construction Workshops are held beginning in April and end with the adoption of the five year plan in September.

The construction projects go through a ranking process that involves establishing thirteen criteria, weighting the criteria, and tabulating the scores. The construction projects with the higher scores receive a higher ranking. The preliminary list of construction projects are presented to the School Board Members during the Construction Workshops beginning in April. A dialogue between School Board Members and District Staff takes place over the next several months. A final list of construction projects emerges and culminates with the adoption of the five-year plan in September.

For more information, please visit the Five-Year Plan and Capital Budget website: www.PBC5YP.info