



This December, Lexington voters will be asked to approve funding for the construction of three capital projects:

- Maria Hastings Elementary School
- Lexington Children's Place (Pre-K)
- Fire Station Headquarters

These vital facilities are all operating in substandard buildings that are too small to handle the current and future needs of Lexington. Investing in these projects will improve the education system and public safety for all of Lexington. Greater detail about the needs and scope of each project are included below.

New Hastings Elementary School

The Maria Hastings Elementary School, located at 7 Crosby Rd., is the oldest school building in Lexington. Built in 1955, it has been in dire need of replacement for many years. It was built in a different era for a different educational model. It lacks the small group instruction and design considerations required by our inclusionary programs. Its antiquated infrastructure hampers 21st Century learning.

Additionally, a new Hastings is the lynchpin of Lexington's plan for creating critical increased capacity at the elementary level across the district. The new school will be much larger than the current Hastings – 30 classrooms instead of 21. These new classrooms will provide much needed relief to all of our overcrowded and congested elementary schools.

If this referendum item passes, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) will contribute approximately \$14 million to the construction costs. MSBA determines which projects they will fund based on perceived need, receiving over 250 applications for assistance annually. Their approval validates the degree of deterioration of the existing building.

- In 2011, a failed wood beam in the gymnasium was repaired with steel plates.
- In 2015, two additional beams failed and were repaired, with the gym being closed for approximately three weeks.
- In 2015, ice dams caused flooding in 16 of the 21 classrooms.
- The nurse's office, operating in only 170 sq. ft., lacks adequate space and privacy.
- There is no sprinkler system in the building.
- The HVAC system is inadequate and inefficient with 20-year-old boilers. The building was recently converted to natural gas, but the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems are substantially original, and fail current building code standards.
- Speech and language services, Guidance, School Psychologist, Social Worker, Occupational Therapy, and Math Specialists all provide services in windowless spaces with poor ventilation, heating and air quality. Many spaces were created from closets, hallways, etc. which were not intended for programmatic use.

Cost estimates for this project are \$65.3 million, offset by \$16.5 million of MSBA support, for an estimated cost to the town of \$48.8 million.



New Lexington Children's Place (Pre-K)

Lexington Children's Place (LCP) is a state-mandated preschool initiative. LCP serves children from across the district with disabilities as diagnosed by special education evaluations. One of the programs offered is an Integrated Preschool. In these classrooms, children with and without special education needs are educated together. Those children attending LCP without special needs are charged tuition.

When Harrington Elementary was built in 2005, four classrooms were dedicated to house LCP within the elementary school. Since then, increases in enrollment have forced LCP to expand into rooms at the Central School Administration Office (CO), aka "Old Harrington". This expansion was never intended as a permanent solution for LCP. The Central Office is not current with modern codes for school buildings and its use as auxiliary space for the LCP requires three- and four-year-old children to travel across the parking lots between Harrington and the CO.

The Town's purchase of land at 20 Pelham Rd creates an opportunity to build a new LCP that will:

- Provide a 50% increase in enrollment capacity.
- Unite all programming in one building that is designed specifically for preschool students with special needs.
- Diminish the need to transport Lexington children to out-of-district programs for their mandated special education services—an option that is generally less desirable for our youngest children, and expensive to the town.

Furthermore, the relocation of LCP to Pelham Rd. will free up four classrooms at Harrington Elementary School for elementary education. These four classrooms, plus the additional nine classrooms at a new Hastings represent the only significant increases in our elementary school enrollment capacity in the foreseeable future. The estimated cost of a new, free-standing Lexington Children's place is \$15.3 million.

New Headquarters Fire Station

Lexington's main fire station, located at 45 Bedford St., no longer meets our community's needs. Built in 1947 for a community with a population of about 17,000, it is significantly undersized for today's Lexington of over 31,000 residents; nor does it meet the requirements of a modern fire department.

- The station should be about 25,100 sq.ft. It is currently just under 10,000 sq.ft.
- When the station was built, fire trucks were half the size and weight of modern vehicles, making parking and storage extremely tight in the current parking bays.
- Due to the increased equipment weight, the station experienced a structural failure of its apparatus floor several years ago (temporary shoring has since been implemented).
- The heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems are obsolete and inefficient.
- Safety equipment is being stored outside.
- Many of the department's vehicles cannot be stored in garaged areas.

In addition to remedying these shortcomings, the new fire station will provide dedicated indoor and outdoor training areas for firefighters. The project is estimated to cost \$22 million.