

The Whittier Middle School Project: What You Need to Know

An overview of the project, why is it being considered, and the goals guiding the planning process

Built in 1957, Whittier Middle School has served generations of Haverhill students without a major renovation. As the building ages, the City of Haverhill is partnering with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to explore long-term solutions that address facility challenges and support the educational needs of current and future students.

Why Whittier?

- **Built in 1957** — no major renovation completed
- Aging **HVAC, electrical & plumbing** systems
- **Overcrowding** in classrooms, hallways & common areas
- Limited **science, STEM & student support** spaces

Who is the MSBA?

- **Massachusetts School Building Authority** — state agency partnering with communities on school construction & renovation
- Provides a **structured process** : evaluate conditions, needs & potential solutions
- The MSBA reimburses districts for **eligible project costs** during construction up to 77.4%
- The MSBA process is broken down into modules. The process begins with the submission of a Statement of Interest ("SOI") during their annual open submission period. Haverhill submitted their SOI for Whittier Middle School in 2022.

Planning for Whittier: What's Being Considered?

The project aims to address Whittier Middle School's facility and educational needs by exploring improvements to learning spaces, building systems, and the overall school environment. Community input is an important part of the process, helping inform decisions and shape the project as it moves from feasibility study through completion.

Educational Space Goals

- Dedicated science & STEM learning spaces
- Proper spaces for special education & student support services
- Right-sized library, music & cafeteria areas
- Modern technology infrastructure & electrical capacity

Building & Safety Goals

- Resolve moisture, structural & accessibility challenges
- Replace aging building systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing)
- Improve energy efficiency & long-term sustainability
- Develop a solution aligned with the District's educational program

Key Milestones

