

Completing Kentucky's School Infrastructure Promise

2027 Interim Budget Request: School Facilities Assistance Fund (SFAF)

Core Ask

\$102.9 Million — final 50% of audited SFAF funding for 7 verified districts

Objective

Finish active, post-pandemic inflationary construction projects without starting "new" asks

Presented By

SFAF Superintendents representing communities across the Commonwealth

The 2024 Mandate: A Foundation for Growth

BACKGROUND — HB 6

The Problem

Post-pandemic inflation created unprecedented funding gaps for critical local school projects already underway or in final planning stages.

The Legislative Bridge

HB 6 established the School Facility Assistance Fund (SFAF), injecting **\$130.4M** in 2024–2025 to keep projects alive.

The Result

Project cancellations were prevented and vital school builds remained on schedule across all thirteen districts.

Current Status

100% of participating districts have met rigorous statutory compliance and independent audit benchmarks. 6 of the 13 district have completed construction.

Why Support the Final 50%?

THREE PILLARS OF THE REQUEST



Statutory & Audit Verification

Every participating district has been independently certified by the Auditor of Public Accounts and Blue & Co., LLC. Audits confirm that local tax efforts — including the full 10-cent levy equivalent — and bonding capacities are completely exhausted. There is no local capacity remaining. State investment is not supplementing local effort; it is filling a verified, irreducible gap.



Career & Technical Education Completion

Over 40% of requested funds directly build or complete CTE facilities aligned with Kentucky's Senate workforce and industrial growth goals. State-of-the-art labs for healthcare, advanced manufacturing, EV technology, welding, and robotics will come online — equipping students for high-demand, high-wage careers without leaving the Commonwealth.



Fiscal Responsibility

Completing these projects now ensures the state's initial \$130M investment achieves its full intended utility. Partial funding produces partial outcomes — and in construction, partial outcomes often mean cost overruns, site deterioration, and eventually far greater expenses. Full funding now is the fiscally responsible choice for Kentucky taxpayers.

District Allocations & Final Request

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

District	Project Focus	2024–25 Received	2027 Final Request
Adair Co.	New Middle School	\$3,837,000	\$3,837,000
Augusta Ind.	New Multipurpose Educational Gym Facility	\$2,679,000	\$2,679,000
Bardstown Ind.	HS/MS/CTE Renovation	\$21,563,000	\$21,563,000
Fleming Co.	New Elementary School	\$7,917,000	\$7,917,000
Harrison Co.	New Consolidated High School	\$25,348,000	\$25,348,000
Johnson Co.	Central HS & CTE Center	\$39,099,000	\$39,099,000
Williamstown Ind.	Additions & Expansion Phase 1	\$3,724,000	\$2,463,272
TOTALS		\$130,400,000	\$102,906,272

Replacing Aging, Outdated Infrastructure

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS — ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE FOCUS

1

Adair County

Replacing a 1952 middle school with a modern 100,000 sq. ft. learning center designed for current instructional models, ADA compliance, and 21st-century technology infrastructure.

2

Augusta Independent

Replacing a 1926 gymnasium—the oldest active gym in Kentucky—with a modern and fully compliant P-12 multipurpose educational facility that meets current safety, accessibility, and programming standards. The versatile space is designed to expand learning opportunities for students and serve as a valuable resource for the Augusta community.

3

Fleming County

Consolidating three aging elementary schools into one safe, modern, and efficient facility, eliminating redundant operating costs while substantially improving student learning conditions. The state-approved plan replaces buildings dating to 1938, 1957, and 1959 and brings together sixth-grade students currently divided among the three schools. The remaining \$7.917 million in GAP funding is essential to complete this final phase, including four traditional classrooms, one science lab, one resource classroom, critical infrastructure upgrades, site excavation, and parking, allowing the district to fulfill the consolidation begun in 2021 and secure long-term savings for local and state taxpayers.

4

Williamstown Independent

Construction of classrooms, offices, and multipurpose facility to enhance safety, security, and increase opportunities for all students in Williamstown Schools.

Building Kentucky's Future Workforce

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS — HIGH SCHOOL & CTE HUBS



Bardstown Independent

Renovations that require a multiphase approach for two historic buildings in the heart of downtown Bardstown resulting in a state-of-the-art Career & Technical Education Center and a modern high school that will serve the community for decades.



Harrison County

Consolidating all educational facilities on a single campus to offer **30+ career pathways** in a newly constructed high school, unlocking over \$1 million in annual operating savings by closing three elementary schools — one of the strongest dual-return investments in this entire portfolio.



Johnson County

Relocating out of a 100-year floodplain to build a combination high school and CTE center with 35 career pathways— placing students on a path to high-wage careers while eliminating chronic flood-related operational risk and having the future footprint for all future schools on one campus.

Why Full Funding Is Critical Now

THE COST OF INACTION

What Delay Costs Kentucky

Inflation Escalation

Construction costs rise **5%–8% annually**. A two-year delay on \$102M adds \$5M–\$8M in avoidable costs — money that comes from somewhere else in the budget or from local taxpayers.

Workforce Opportunity Lost

Over 40% of funds build CTE spaces for EV, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing. Each year of delay is a year Kentucky students lack access to training facilities that competitors in neighboring states already have.

Emergency Cost Exposure

Essential builds include ICC-500 rated storm shelters. Delaying these structures leaves communities exposed to disaster events that generate far higher costs in emergency response and remediation.

What Full Funding Delivers

Locked-In Current Rates

Several districts have already negotiated favorable 2025 contractor pricing. Funding now captures those rates and eliminates inflation risk for the duration of construction.

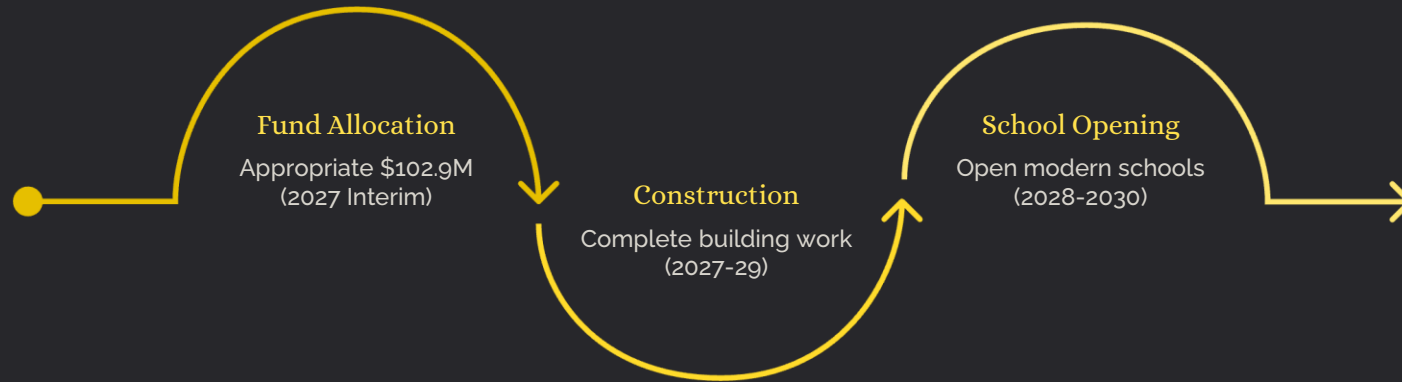
Legislative Accountability Fulfilled

HB 6 made a promise to twenty districts. Completing the funding framework to the remaining seven fulfills that legislative commitment — protecting the credibility of Kentucky's school infrastructure policy for future biennia.

Community Confidence Sustained

Local governments levied taxes and issued bonds based on the state's commitment. Honoring that commitment reinforces the public-private partnership model that makes Kentucky's current school facilities finance system function.

From Bids to Classrooms: The Path Forward



The Request

\$102,906,272 in the 2027 Interim Session — the verified final installment of the HB 6 commitment

The Commitment

Complete transparency, rigorous fiscal management, and ongoing audit compliance through project completion

The Impact

Safe, modern, and functional environments that prepare Kentucky students for careers, citizenship, and opportunity

Kentucky's Students Are Ready. So Are We.

These seven remaining districts represent Kentucky's backbone — communities that have stretched every local dollar, met every state requirement, and trusted the General Assembly to honor its commitment. The final 50% is not just a budget line. It is a promise kept.

Augusta Independent.

April 2026 – Site demolition and excavation work



May 2026 - Site preparation



Foundation walls and preparing for block.



Bardstown Independent August 2026 - High School Renovation



Harrison County High School



Johnson Central High School

Site Development March 2023



Site Development September 2025



Construction Progress September 2026

