

SUPERINTENDENT
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BOARD OF EDUCATION
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October 12, 2023

Esteemed Parents, Community Members and EPS Staff,

Española Public Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a General Obligation (GO) bond referendum for the November 7 ballot in the amount of \$40 million, \$10 million will be sold over a 4-year period. Go Bond 2023 will provide funding for remodeling, equipping and furnishing school buildings; purchasing or improving school grounds; purchasing computer software and hardware for student use in public schools; providing matching funds for capital outlay projects funded pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act; or any combination of these purposes.*

The decision to place the GO Bond on the November ballot was made by EPS Board of Education based on the needs of the district identified in the 2022-2026 Facilities Masters Plan Final Report. The bond will provide funds to help repair, renovate, and renew the district's buildings and make improvements to the learning environment for all students.

Española Public Schools' aging facilities were constructed in 1932, 1967, 1969, 1972, and 1976. The facilities have provided much-needed learning spaces for our students in our rural communities. The bond allows our schools to maintain our community's culture and identity. EPS facilities are 40-90 years old with varying needs. EPS Board of Education is committed to keeping the cultural identity by preserving the history of each individual school community.

The district will focus on the following key areas of facility improvement if the Espanola Public Schools GO bond is approved on November 7:

- Repairs to roofs and HVAC systems at identified schools.
- Security upgrades district-wide
- Renovations to our aging facilities, the focus will be on improving and repairing school buildings and facilities based on PSFA state ranking order.
- Renewal of student learning environments and upgrade classroom facilities to effectively meet students' learning needs district-wide.
- Complete current PSCOC-awarded projects at Abiquiu and Velarde.

General Obligation bonds, which are also referred to as GOs, are municipal bonds that provide a way for schools to raise money for projects that may not generate a revenue stream directly. Go Bond property taxes are included in the individual property tax notices as itemized taxes.



Española Public Schools

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

The last time EPS asked voters for a bond was 2011. GO Bonds 2023 will allow the school district to raise funds for projects that create streams of income for things such as renovations and upgrades to school facilities, life, health, safety, security systems, playgrounds, and fields. In addition, GO Bonds 2023 will be used to fund district projects listed in the 2022-2026 Facilities Master Plan. The funding can not be used on salaries or day-to-day operations (per [NM Statute 22-18-1](#)). The GO Bond will provide continued improvements to our much-needed infrastructure. Further, bond proceeds may not be used for any other purpose other than that which is stated in the ballot ([2006 New Mexico Statutes - Section 22-18-1 — General obligation bonds: authority to issue](#)).

The Public Schools Finance Authority, PSFA currently provides matching funding to support district facility needs. Districts are responsible for their state match. Currently, EPS state match is 53% of total estimated project cost. If the GO bond passes the district will apply for PSFA funding to help offset the district total cost of renovations. EPS facilities rank high on the [PSFA School Ranking list](#), demonstrating the need for facility upgrades and repairs due to aging outdated school facilities and equipment. Further, our [EPS Facilities Master Plan](#) demonstrates and prioritizes school needs.

The district needs support from our community to vote. Española Public Schools needs GO Bond 2023 funding to create safer, better schools for our students. Vote November 7, 2023.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Holly M. Martinez', written in a cursive style.

Holly M. Martinez
Superintendent