THOMASTON Public Schools

Board of Education Meeting

June 30, 2026

DISTRICT-WIDE STUDY

assessment and recommendations on the educational and operational efficiency of Thomaston Public Schools.

100 YEARS DRA

Effort #1 – Building and Programmatic Efficiencies Retaining the Current Facilities *The selected firm will evaluate all educational and support spaces within the District's facilities to determine their size, condition, and educational appropriateness.*

Effort #2 – Educational and Operational Potentials in Reducing the Total Number of Facilities *This study will involve an analysis of space utilization, student distribution, and building functionality to determine potential grade reconfigurations, consolidation strategies, and operational benefits.*

Effort #3 – Operational Shared Services Potential *This effort will explore opportunities for the District to increase administrative and operational shared services with neighboring Districts or Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs).*

Effort #4 – Comprehensive Regionalization Potential *The firm will analyze the potential for the District to enter into a regional school agreement with one or more adjoining public school Districts.*

Demographic and Enrollment

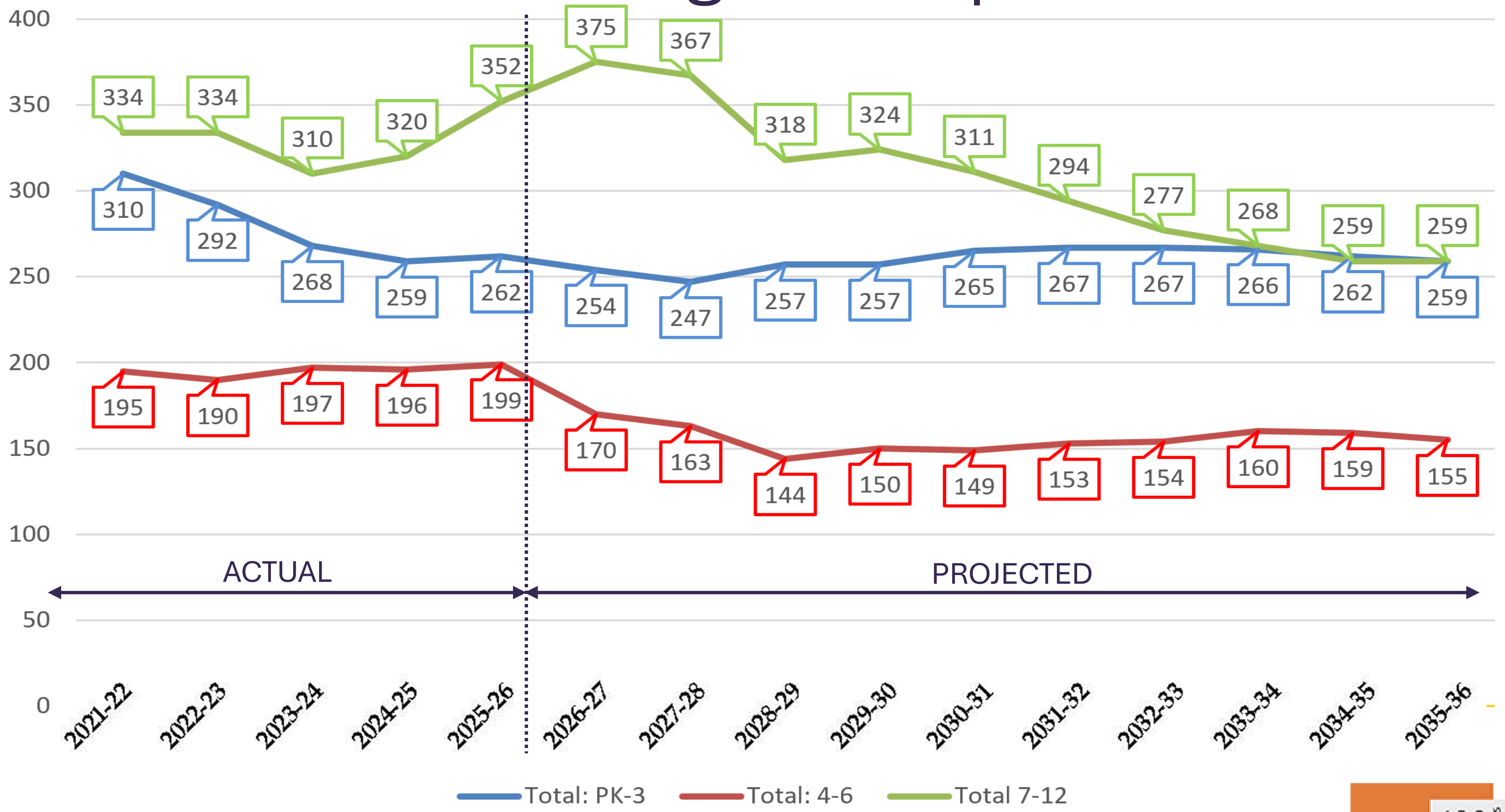
THOMASTON Public Schools

THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL

BLACK ROCK ELEMENTARY

THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL

Current Grade Alignment | PK-3, 4-6, 7-12



CropperGIS

100 YEARS DRA

On-Line Survey | response results summary

THOMASTON Public Schools

Town of Thomaston & Thomaston Public Schools

Residents & Businesses 4.82

129 responses

Town of Thomaston & Thomaston Public Schools

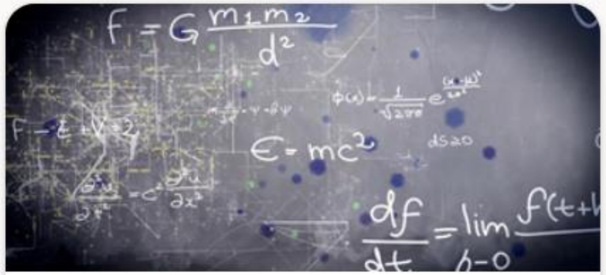
Parents & Guardians 5.58

65 responses

Town of Thomaston & Thomaston Public Schools

Teachers & Staff 7.79

72 responses



Town of Thomaston & Thomaston Public Schools

Students 6.42

143 responses

129 responses submitted

How well do you think the Thomaston Public Schools are perceived by residents and non-residents? (1 = not very we...

4.82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7%	6%	10%	16%	23%	10%	15%	4%	3%	0%

9 of 11

100 YEARS DRA

Working Group Meeting | Key Outcomes

COMMUNICATION

The schools provide a good learning environment
There is good support and engagement by students and staff
There appears to be a lack of meaningful communication between school and residents / businesses
There appears to be a need for better marketing of the district

RIGHT-SIZING

They own and operate too much real estate for a district of their size
The separation of upper elementary to Center School diminishes the maximization of use of the High School site features such as the ropes course and outdoor learning areas
The upper elementary at Center School also reduces chances or participation and interaction by these kids in programs at the BRS / THS campus

CAMPUS FOCUS

The objective should be to maximize flexibility in learning opportunities while promoting efficiency
This is likely best achieved via a campus approach
The BRS / THS properties make an adequate campus - lacking athletic fields (which are likely not that big a driver)
Of the two buildings on the campus the BRS is the less effective and more needy building

ALIGNMENT

Grade alignment is less of a driver if a campus approach is taken
An alignment that moves Grade 6 to THS has garnered the most support
This alignment facilitates a MS/HS approach within the building
A campus approach does not require PK to be in the HS building, thus PK - 5 and 6 - 12 is a possibility

MENTORSHIP

Approaches to staffing should consider increasing opportunities for teachers to mentor students over long periods of time, as is currently done at the HS
This can be done at the ES level in a number of ways -
teacher/staff mentors who work with kids for all years they are in the building (current THS model)
Looping teachers with students throughout their time (teachers move up a grade and teach the same students each year)
Team teaching, possibly for Grades 4 and 5.

Working Group Meeting | Key Outcomes

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Working Group Meeting | Key Outcomes

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Working Group Meeting | Key Outcomes

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Working Group Meeting | Key Outcomes

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- Team teaching, possibly for Grades 4 and 5.

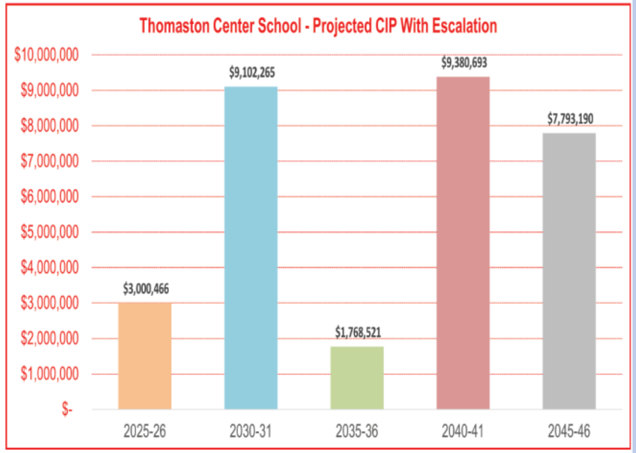
Effort #1 – Building and Programmatic Efficiencies Retaining the Current Facilities

The selected firm will evaluate all educational and support spaces within the District's facilities to determine their size, condition, and educational appropriateness.

Existing Facilities | Thomaston Center School

THOMASTON Public Schools

Thomaston Center School
Fourth Grade to Sixth Grade
1 Thomas Avenue
105,800 Gross Square Feet, Three Floors
4.2 Acre Site
Originally Constructed: 1938

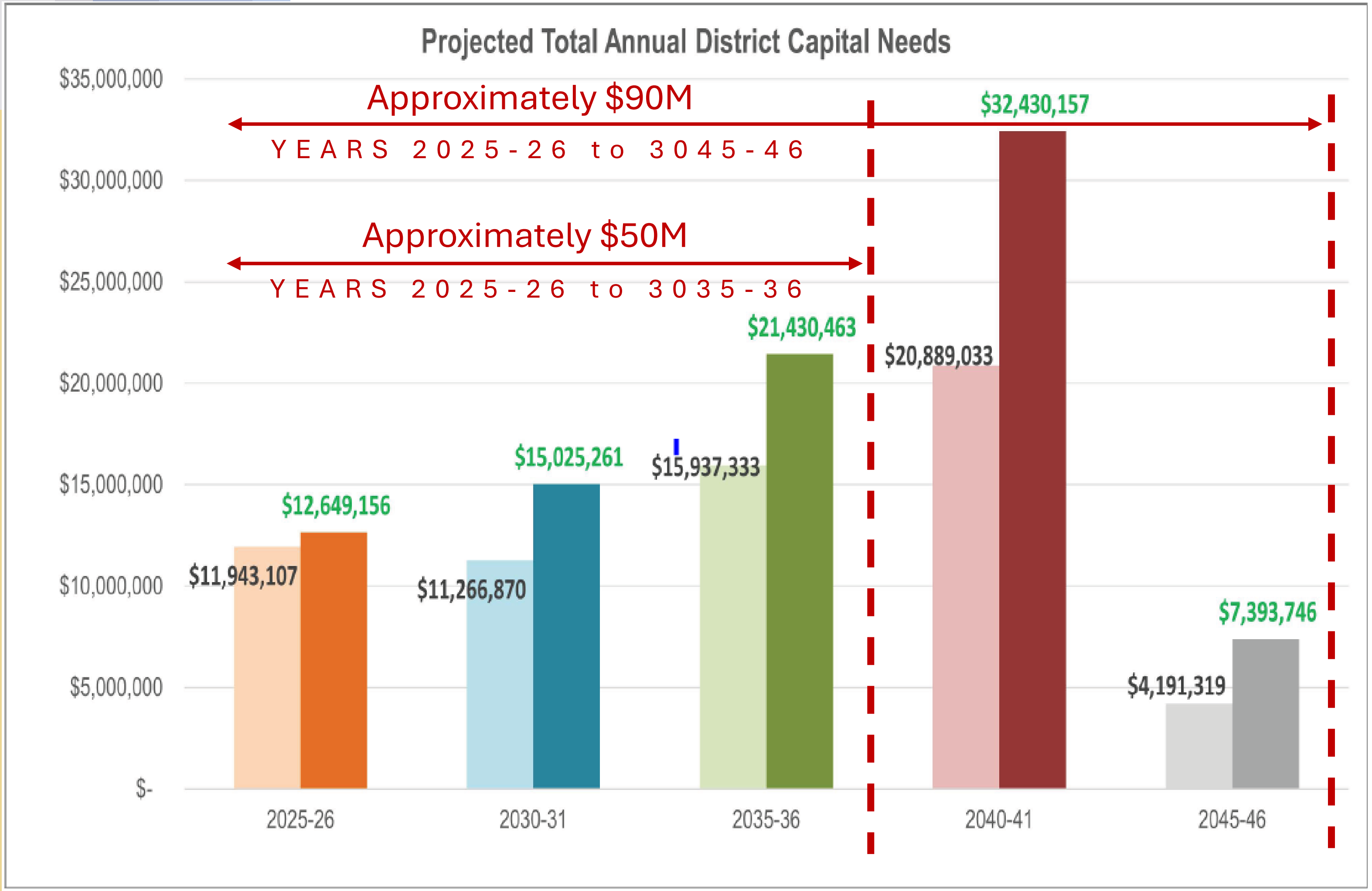


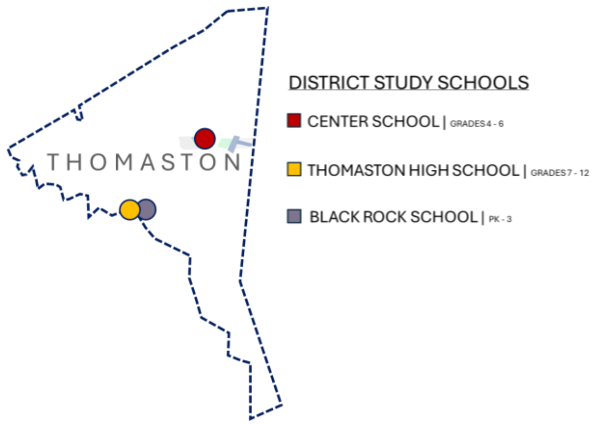
$31.1 M Capital Improvements Over 20-Years

1. Clay Street
2. Parking Area for Field
3. Sanford Avenue
4. Field
5. High Street
6. Main Parking Area
7. Secondary Parki
8. Main Entrance
9. Thomas Avenue
10. Secondary Entrance
11. Tertiary Entrances
12. (1) Accessible Parki
13. Secondary Parl
14. Clay Street
15. Grove Street

Retain Existing Facilities

THOMASTON Public Schools





Maintaining the Existing District Schools Represents an Approximately $90M Capital Needs Investment in the next 20-Year Timeframe.

Qualitative Assessment – Descriptive Key

THOMASTON Public Schools

GRADE ALIGNMENT	FACILITY S.F. FIT	EDUCATIONAL APPROPRIATENESS	CLASSROOM QUALITY	MEDIA CENTER QUALITY	GYMNASIUM QUALITY	CAFETERIA QUALITY	SUPPORT SPACE QUALITY	COST TO DEVELOP	COST AVOIDANCE	REGIONALIZATION FLEXIBILITY	RAW SCORE
											41

GRADE ALIGNMENT
- Age Appropriate
- Teacher Certification
- Instructional Methodology

FACILITY S.F. FIT
- Facility Size
- Classroom Count

EDUCATIONAL APPROPRIATENESS
- Space Size Fit
- Appropriate Toileting
- Grade Access as Needed

CLASSROOM QUALITY
- CR Size
- CR Storage
- Grade Access as Needed
- Required Toileting
- Technology / IT

MEDIA CENTER QUALITY
- Collection Accommodation
- Space / Size
- Storage
- Technology / IT

GYMNASIUM QUALITY
- Age Appropriate
- Space / Size
- Storage
- Technology / IT

CAFETERIA QUALITY
- Seating Accommodation
- Space / Size
- Storage
- Servery

SUPPORT SPACE QUALITY
- Appropriate Meeting Space
- Space / Size Mix
- Distributed
- Acoustical Privacy

COST TO DEVELOP
- State Reimbursement
- Overall Development Costs
- Net Town Cost

COST AVOIDANCE
- Compares Costs
- Considers CIP Costs
- Identifies Net Cost

REGIONALIZATION FLEXIBILITY
- Considers Regionalization Accommodation / Flexibility

RAW SCORE
- Row Sum of Individual Assessment Scores

LEGEND

1	LEAST ADVANTAGEOUS
2	
3	NEUTRAL
4	
5	MOST ADVANTAGEOUS

Retain Existing Facilities

Current Grade Alignment | PK-3 (BRS), 4-6 (TCS), 7-12 (THS)

LEGEND

- 1 LEAST ADVANTAGEOUS
- 2
- 3 NEUTRAL
- 4
- 5 MOST ADVANTAGEOUS

	GRADE ALIGNMENT	FACILITY S.F. FIT	EDUCATIONAL APPROPRIATENESS	CLASSROOM QUALITY	MEDIA CENTER QUALITY	GYMNASIUM QUALITY	CAFETERIA QUALITY	SUPPORT SPACE QUALITY	COST TO DEVELOP	COST AVOIDANCE	REGIONALIZATION FLEXIBILITY	RAW SCORE
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL GRADES PK-3	4	3	4	2	4	4	3	3	1	2	2	32
CENTER SCHOOL GRADES 4-6	4	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	1	2	2	30
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 7-12	4	2	4	3	4	4	4	3	1	2	4	35

Retain Existing Facilities

Current Grade Alignment | PK-3 (BRS), 4-6 (TCS), 7-12 (THS)

Maintain Existing Buildings | No Significant Educational Improvements

		PROJECTED COST	POTENTIAL GRANT	PROJECTED NET COST
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant		**$ 29.6 M**	$ 3	$ 27 M
CENTER SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant		**$ 31.1 M**	$ 3	$ 28 M
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant		**$ 56.2 M**	$ 6	$ 51 M
* CIP - Capital Improvement Plan	TOTAL	**$ 116.9 M**	$ 12	**$ 105 M**

Retain Existing Facilities

Current Grade Alignment | PK-3 (BRS), 4-6 (TCS), 7-12 (THS)

ADVANTAGES

- Known Alignment for Community
- Addresses Code Upgrades
- Addresses All CIP Items

DISADVANTAGES

- No Educational Improvement to System
- Continues Operation of Excess Space
- Does Not Maximize State Grants
- Does Not Encourage Regionalization

Effort #2 – Educational and Operational Potentials in Reducing the Total Number of Facilities

This study will involve an analysis of space utilization, student distribution, and building functionality to determine potential grade reconfigurations, consolidation strategies, and operational benefits.

Grade Alignment | options summary

THOMASTON Public Schools

Option	Grade Configuration			Scope of Work			Projected Schedule			Projected Costs (overall / town / state)				Funding
	Black Rock	Center School	THS	Black Rock	Center	THS	Black Rock	Center	THS	Total	Black Rock	Center School	THS	
Retain Current	PK - Grade 3	Grades 4 - 6	Grades 7 - 12	Repairs to existing	Repairs to existing	Repairs to existing	2026 - 2046	2026 - 2046	2026 - 2046	$116.9 / 116.9 / 0	$29.6mil / 29.6 / 0	$31.1mil / 31.1 / 0	$56.2mil / 56.2 / 0	Entirely Town funded
Retain Current	PK - Grade 3	Grades 4 - 6	Grades 7 - 12	Repairs to existing	Repairs to existing	Repairs to existing	2026 - 2046	2026 - 2046	2026 - 2046	$116.9 / 104.9 / 12.0	$29.6mil / 26.6 / 3.0	$31.1mil / 28.1 / 3.0	$56.2mil / 50.2 / 6.0	Combination of State grants and Town funding.
Option A	PK - Grade 3	Unused	Grades 4 - 12	Repairs to existing	None	Renovation to New and Addition of Space	2027 - 2030	Not Applicable	2027 - 2031	$142mil / 61 / 82	$26mil / 3	$0 / 0	$116mil / 37 / 79	Combination of State grants and Town funding.
Option A - 1	PK - Grade 3	Unused	Grades 4 - 12	Replacement with a new building	None	Renovation to New and Addition of Space	2030 - 2034	Not Applicable	2027 - 2031	$153mil / 104 / 49	$37mil / 25	$0 / 0	$116 mil / 79 / 37	Combination of State grants and Town funding.
Option B	K - Grade 6	Unused	PK & Grades 7 - 12	Renovation to New and Addition of Space	None	Renovation to New and Addition of Space	2027 - 2031	Not Applicable	2027 - 2031	$158mil / 107 / 51	$62mil / 42 / 20	$0 / 0	$96mil / 65 / 31	Combination of State grants and Town funding.
Option C	PK - K	Unused	Grades 1 - 12	Replacement or Renovation to As New	None	Renovation to New and Addition of Space	2031 - 2033	Not Applicable	2027 - 2031	$171mil / 116 / 55	$21mil / 14 / 7	$0 / 0	$150mil / 102 / 48	Combination of State grants and Town funding.
Option D	K - Grade 5	Unused	PK & Grades 6 - 12	Renovation to New and Addition of Space	None	Renovation to New and Addition of Space	2027 - 2031	Not Applicable	2027 - 2031	$158mil / 107 / 51	$62mil / 42 / 20	$0 / 0	$96mil / 65 / 31	Combination of State grants and Town funding.

Reduce Facilities | SF Footprint

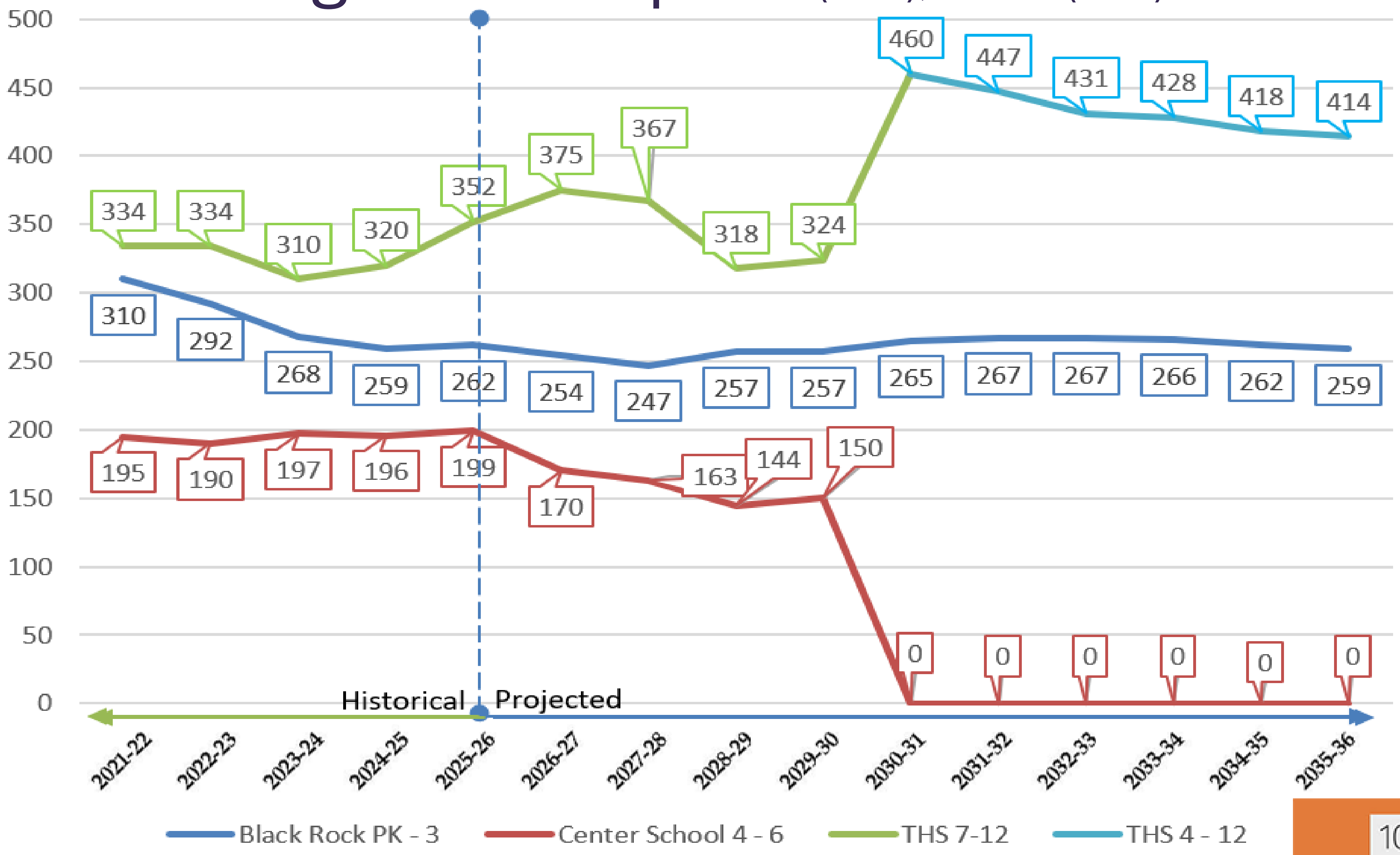
THOMASTON Public Schools

Alignment A | PK-3 (BRS), 4-12 (THS)

THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL

BLACK ROCK ELEMENTARY

THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL
Off-Line



100 YEARS DRA

Reduce Facilities

Alignment A | PK-3 (BRS), 4-12 (THS)

LEGEND

- 1 LEAST ADVANTAGEOUS
- 2
- 3 NEUTRAL
- 4
- 5 MOST ADVANTAGEOUS

	GRADE ALIGNMENT	FACILITY S.F. FIT	EDUCATIONAL APPROPRIATENESS	CLASSROOM QUALITY	MEDIA CENTER QUALITY	GYMNASIUM QUALITY	CAFETERIA QUALITY	SUPPORT SPACE QUALITY	COST TO DEVELOP	COST AVOIDANCE	REGIONALIZATION FLEXIBILITY	RAW SCORE
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (Repair GRADES PK-3	4	3	4	2	4	4	3	3	1	2	2	32
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (New) GRADES PK-3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	2	48
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 7-12	4	2	4	3	4	4	4	3	1	2	4	35

Reduce Facilities

Alignment A | PK-3 (BRS), 4-12 (THS)

DEVELOPMENT COSTS	TOTAL COST	STATE GRANT	NET TO TOWN
State Grant - Approach A			
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (RENOV) 10%+/- State Grant	$ 26 M	$ 3 M	$ 24 M
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL (ADD/RENO) 68%+/- 2025-26 State Grant	$ 116 M	$ 79 M	$ 37 M
TOTAL	$ 142 M	$ 82 M	$ 61 M
State Grant - Approach B			
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (NEW) 68%+/- 68%+/- 2025-26 State Grant	$ 37 M	$ 25	$ 12 M
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL (ADD/RENO) 68%+/- 68%+/- 2025-26 State Grant	$ 116 M	$ 79	$ 37 M
TOTAL	$ 153 M	$ 104	$ 49 M
AVOIDANCE COSTS			
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$ 29.6 M	$ 3	$ 27 M
CENTER SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$ 31.1 M	$ 3	$ 28 M
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$ 56.2 M	$ 6	$ 51 M
* CIP - Capital Improvement Plan TOTAL	$ 116.9 M	$ 12	$ 105 M

State Grant – Approach A | Cost Avoidance Projection	$ 44 M
State Grant – Approach B | Cost Avoidance Projection	$ 56 M

Reduce Facilities

Alignment A | PK-3 (BRS), 4-12 (THS)

ADVANTAGES

- Better SF / Student Fit
- Cost Avoidance Potential
- Uses State Grants
- Addresses All CIP Items

DISADVANTAGES

- Unfamiliar HS Alignment
- Modification to Address Student Ages

Reduce Facilities | SF Footprint

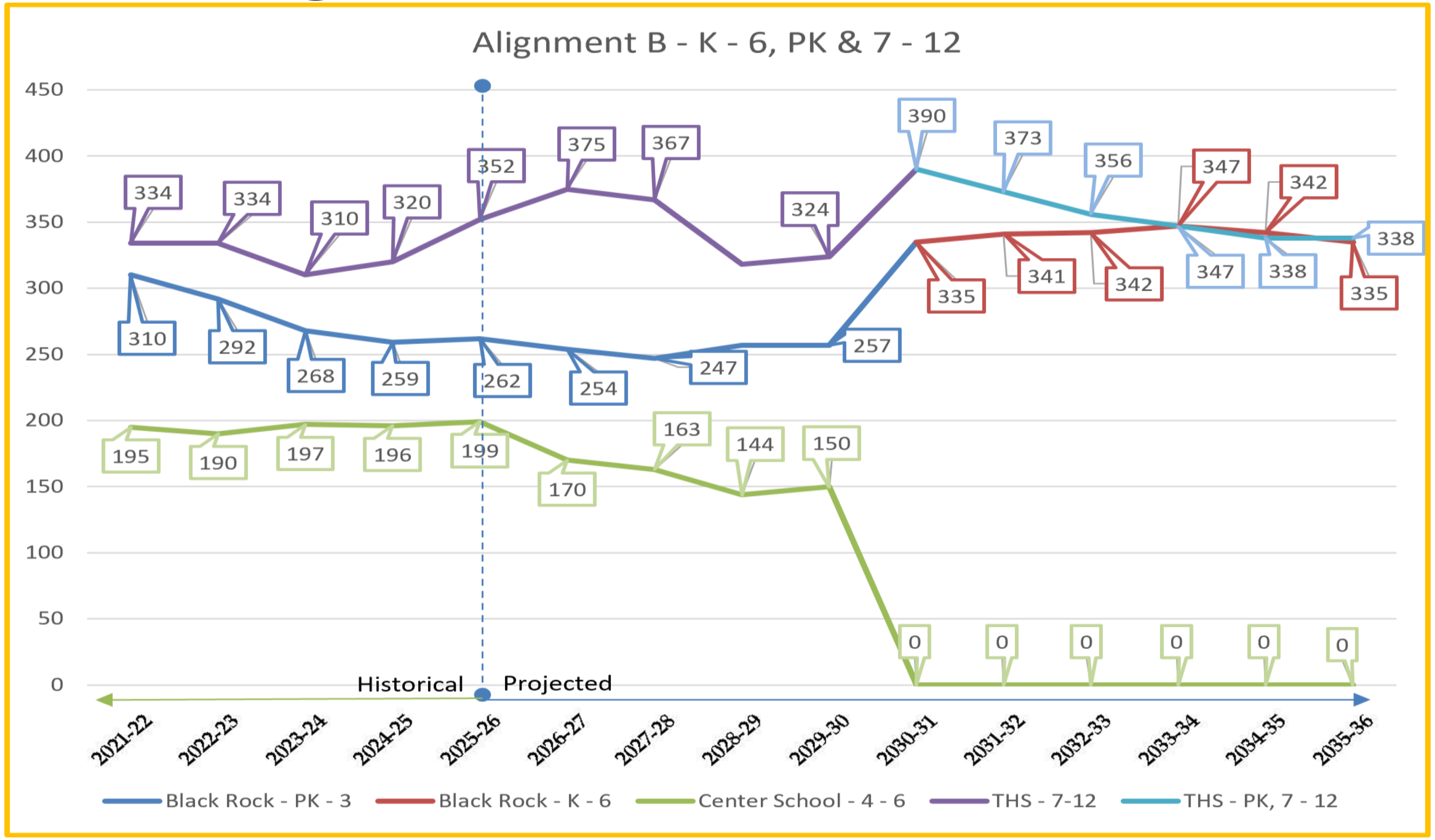
THOMASTON Public Schools

Alignment B | K-6 (BRS), PK,7-12 (THS)

THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL

BLACK ROCK ELEMENTARY

THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL
Off-Line



100 YEARS DRA

Reduce Facilities

Alignment B | K-6 (BRS), PK,7-12 (THS)

THOMASTON Public Schools

LEGEND
- 1 LEAST ADVANTAGEOUS
- 2
- 3 NEUTRAL
- 4
- 5 MOST ADVANTAGEOUS

	GRADE ALIGNMENT	FACILITY S.F. FIT	EDUCATIONAL APPROPRIATENESS	CLASSROOM QUALITY	MEDIA CENTER QUALITY	GYMNASIUM QUALITY	CAFETERIA QUALITY	SUPPORT SPACE QUALITY	COST TO DEVELOP	COST AVOIDANCE	REGIONALIZATION FLEXIBILITY	RAW SCORE
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL GRADES K-6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	41
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 7-12' + PK + GROSS MOTOR + DINING	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	4	43

100 YEARS DRA

Reduce Facilities

Alignment B | K-6 (BRS), PK, 7-12 (THS)

THOMASTON Public Schools

DEVELOPMENT COSTS		TOTAL COST			STATE GRANT		NET TO TOWN	
State Grant - Approach B								
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (ADD/NEW) 68%+/- 68%+/- 2025-26 State Grant	$	62	M	$	42	$	20	M
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL (ADD/RENO) 68%+/- 68%+/- 2025-26 State Grant	$	96	M	$	65	$	31	M
TOTAL	$	**158**	**M**	$	107	$	**51**	**M**
AVOIDANCE COSTS								
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$	29.6	M	$	3	$	27	M
CENTER SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$	31.1	M	$	3	$	28	M
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$	56.2	M	$	6	$	51	M
* CIP - Capital Improvement Plan — TOTAL	$	**116.9**	**M**	$	12	$	**105**	**M**
Potential State Grant - Cost Avoidance Projection						$	55	M

100 YEARS DRA

Reduce Facilities

Alignment B | K-6 (BRS), PK, 7-12 (THS)

THOMASTON Public Schools

ADVANTAGES

- Familiarity w/ HS Alignment
- Potential Early Childhood Program
- Traditional Elementary Alignment
- Addresses All CIP Items

DISADVANTAGES

- Site Constraints at Black Rock
- Scope of Addition at THS

Reduce Facilities | SF Footprint

THOMASTON Public Schools

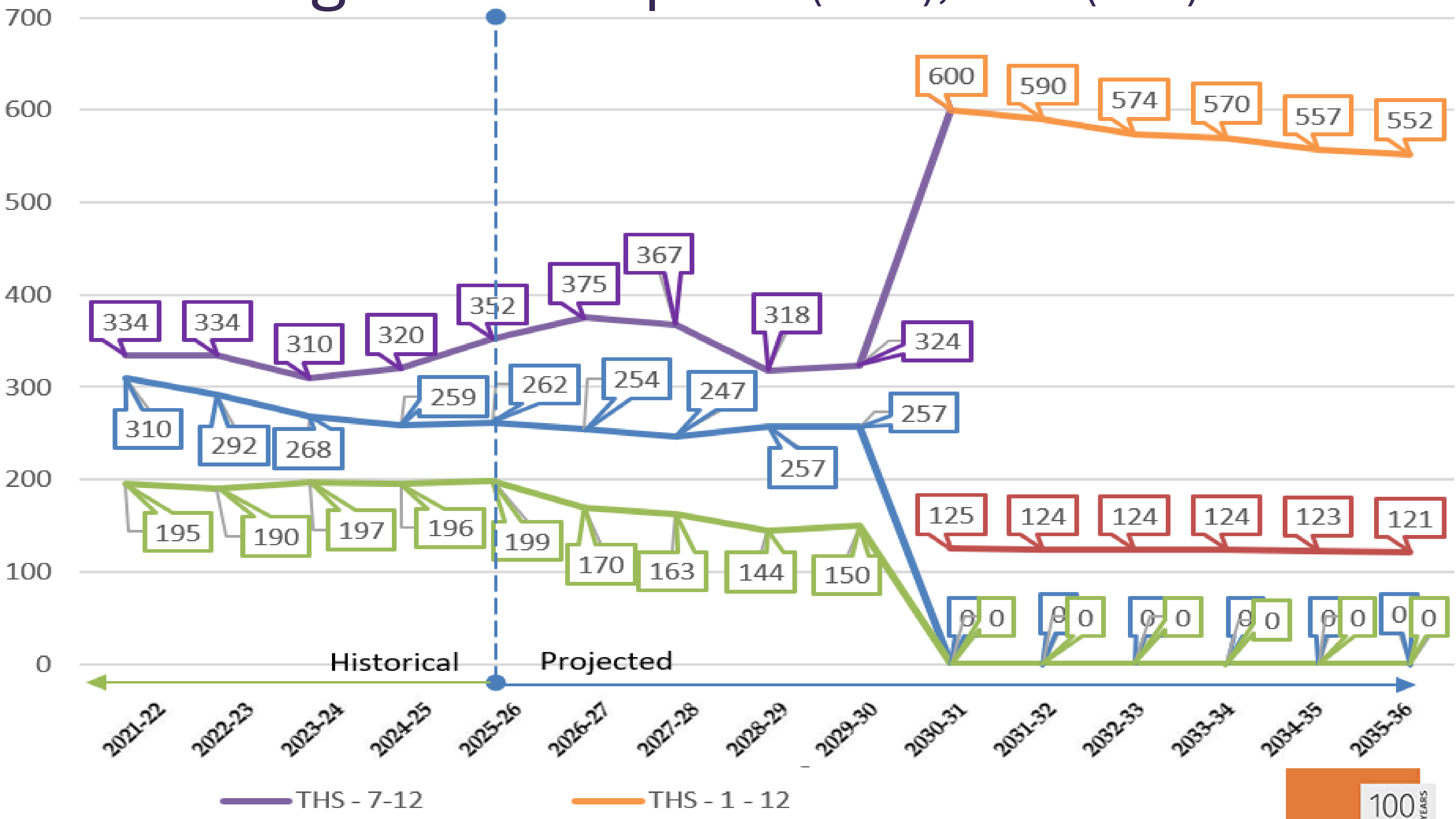
Alignment C | PK-K (New), 1-12 (THS)

THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL

NEW PK-K FACILITY

BLACK ROCK ELEMENTARY
Off-Line

THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL
Off-Line



100 YEARS DRA

Reduce Facilities |

Alignment C | PK-K (New), 1-12 (THS)

LEGEND

1	LEAST ADVANTAGEOUS
2	
3	NEUTRAL
4	
5	MOST ADVANTAGEOUS

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NEW BUILDING GRADES PK-K	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	4	2	49
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 1-12'	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	42

Reduce Facilities | Alignment C | PK-K (New), 1-12 (THS)

THOMASTON Public Schools

DEVELOPMENT COSTS		TOTAL COST			STATE GRANT		NET TO TOWN	
State Grant - Approach B								
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (ADD/NEW) 68%+/- 68%+/- 2025-26 State Grant	$	21	M	$	14	$	7	M
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL (ADD/RENO) 68%+/- 68%+/- 2025-26 State Grant	$	150	M	$	102	$	48	M
TOTAL	$	171	M	$	116	$	55	M
AVOIDANCE COSTS								
BLACK ROCK SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$	29.6	M	$	3	$	27	M
CENTER SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$	31.1	M	$	3	$	28	M
THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL (CIP*) 10%+/- State Grant	$	56.2	M	$	6	$	51	M
* CIP - Capital Improvement Plan TOTAL	$	116.9	M	$	12	$	105	M

Potential State Grant - Cost Avoidance Projection	$	50	M

100 YEARS DRA

Reduce Facilities |

Alignment C | PK-K (New), 1-12 (THS)

ADVANTAGES

- Improved Curriculum Alignment
- Most Efficient Use of District SF
- Affords Widest Curricular Offering

DISADVANTAGES

- Uncommon Grade Alignment
-

Effort #3 – Operational Shared Services Potential *This effort will explore opportunities for the District to increase administrative and operational shared services with neighboring Districts or Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs).*

Key Discussion Topics

SHARE *- Operational Shared Services Potential*

CTGS Sec. 10-158a. Cooperative arrangements among towns. School building projects. Student transportation. *(a) Any two or more boards of education may, in writing, agree to establish cooperative arrangements to provide school accommodations services, programs or activities, special education services, health care services, alternative education, as defined in section 10-74j, or administrative and central office duties to enable such boards to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes*

Curricular

EdAdvance (RESC)
- 30 students
- This is last year of funding

Effective School Solutions (ESS)
- PATHS
- Family therapy clinicians

Connecticut Junior Republic
- Provides a counselor
- Assists with family insurance coverage

College Classes offered:
- THS campus
- UConn
- Eastern
- Southern
- Post
- Paralegal Program
- Subsidized post-secondary enrollment agreement

Transportation

Plymouth and **Wolcott**
- Shared contract (not buses)

Food Services
- Sharing a director with **Wolcott**

Athletics
- Co-ops with several surrounding towns

Previously
- Shared Business Manager with town
- Shared Curriculum Director with **Plymouth**
- Insurance broker

Future Possibilities
- Cafeteria staff
- Copying machines contract
- Elevators
- Plowing
- Grounds maintenance
- Custodial services

Effort #4 – Comprehensive Regionalization Potential *The firm will analyze the potential for the District to enter into a regional school agreement with one or more adjoining public school Districts.*

Key Discussion Topics

THOMASTON Public Schools

REGIONALIZE - *Comprehensive Regionalization Potential*

CTGS Sec. 10-46. Regional board of education. *(a) The affairs of the regional school district shall be administered by a regional board of education, which shall consist of not fewer than five members. Each member town shall elect at least one member. The committee report shall determine the number of members of such regional board and the representation of each town. The first members of such regional board of education shall be nominated and elected at a meeting of the legislative body of each town held within thirty days after the referendum creating the district.... Regional boards of education shall have all the powers and duties conferred upon boards of education by the general statutes....*

There are 169 municipalities in Connecticut.

There are 166 public school districts. Of that number, 144 are traditional (one town, one school district), 17 are regional, and 5 are unique (DCF, DOC, etc.).

Some regional school districts are only for secondary students (grades 7-12).

DRA and Thomaston Public Schools administrative personnel have had conversations about regionalization with superintendents from surrounding school districts. Only one had any interest in pursuing the issue, and further discussions resulted in a solution that was not in the best interest of the Thomaston school district.

Investigation of regional school districts in this part of Connecticut revealed a variety of configurations, that are long-standing with facilities and programs that seem to be working well. The one exception was the creation of Region 20 which took effect last year (2023-2024). This was a combination of Region 6 (3 elementary and 1 middle/high school) with Litchfield Public Schools (2 elementary and 1 middle/high school). While it is too early to assess the effects of that merger, it may be worth noting the first year ended with a $2.3 million over-expenditure.

We are continuing to study the regionalization potential for Thomaston.

Regionalization | Potential Timeframe

YEAR 1

Identify potential strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Build understanding of staffing, facilities (capacities and needs), curriculum offerings. Potential partnerships and regionalization potential.

YEARS 2-4

Seek to identify and share non-contractual positions (Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Payroll, Purchasing, Curriculum Director). Seek to share purchasing and services (busing, food services, custodial, maintenance). Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with potential regionalization partners.

YEARS 5-7

Seek to unify curricular offerings and contracts for contracted employees. Formulate basis of regionalization framework.

YEARS 7-10

Formalize Memorandum of Understanding / Regionalization Agreement / Shared Services / Shared Curriculum instruments.

Board of Education Meeting

June 30, 2026

DISTRICT-WIDE STUDY

assessment and recommendations on the educational and operational efficiency of Thomaston Public Schools.