



Cherokee County
School District

EDUCATION SPLOST RENEWAL, NOV. 2

The Cherokee County School District since 1997 has used a 1-percent Education SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Sales Tax) to fund capital programs, which includes constructing new schools and facilities and renovating existing ones; building technology systems; buying school buses; and acquiring land for future schools.

After an initial Ed SPLOST in 1997 for a short-term building program, our community's business and civic leaders and elected officials formed a 2000-01 Blue Ribbon Committee to develop a long-term plan for our school district's capital needs. The committee agreed that an Ed SPLOST and associated bonds would be the best way to catch up and keep up with rapid growth and improve our school district.



The community has renewed the Ed SPLOST three times since the Committee's recommendation... and since that initial recommendation, student enrollment has grown from 24,400 students to 42,000!

If voters approve the continuation of the Ed SPLOST on the Nov. 2, 2021 ballot, the revenue will be used to:

- **Retire bond debt from rapid construction;**
- **Build a new/replacement Cherokee High School and a new/replacement Free Home Elementary School; classroom additions at Creekview High School, Woodstock High School, Creekland Middle School and Oak Grove Elementary School STEAM Academy; a second gymnasium at River Ridge High School; and much-needed professional development/training facilities for teachers and support staff;**
- **Renovate various schools and campuses including athletic facilities at Etowah High School and Sequoyah High School to improve safety and efficiency and reduce operational costs;**
- **Purchase school buses to replace aging buses;**
- **Maintain our outstanding technology infrastructure; and,**
- **Purchase land for future school sites.**

The Ed SPLOST offers our community the option of paying for these costs through a sales tax that everyone – including many visitors to our county – pays based on consumption instead of through an increase in the property tax millage rate paid solely by property owners. With the Ed SPLOST, our county's total sales tax remains a competitive 6% (the lowest in Georgia).

If property taxes were used instead of the Ed SPLOST, it would be an immediate increase of 5 mills on every tax bill ... and all new construction and technology and bus purchases would come to a halt. CCSD's "mortgage" for rapid school construction, and including the proposed new projects, will be fully retired by 2038 under the proposed plan.