



# EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

**National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence**

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February 16, 2021

Dear East Amwell Community:

I hope you and your family are doing well. As a small, close-knit school district reflective of our greater community, I'm happy to report that our staff, students, and their families continue to be safe and successful with in-person and remote learning. We would expect nothing less from a vibrant National Blue Ribbon School!

We strive for excellence in every area of the district's programs and operations, including our fiscal responsibility to the community we serve. With this in mind, the Board of Education voted unanimously to fund necessary capital improvement projects using a mechanism that provides up to 40% in state aid.

## We want the community to know:

1. The East Amwell School District bond vote is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 20, 2021.**
1. The district has capital reserves to fund the **proposed projects, totaling \$989,500.**
2. By holding a **bond referendum, approved by voters**, the district can **receive up to 40% - nearly \$400,000** – in state aid.
3. **State aid only is available through an approved referendum.**
4. The district is **required to borrow to fund** the projects in order **to receive state aid.**
5. The district will borrow on a short-term basis and using monies on deposit in the capital reserve to pay the local share of the project; the state will pay the remainder. As a result, an approved referendum will fund the upgrades with **no new taxes being raised.**
6. The projects include repairs to the older section of the school, built in 1938.
  - Although encapsulated asbestos in crawlspaces below the floor poses **no risk to students and staff**, removing it now would avoid potentially expensive repairs in an emergency situation.
  - A **reliable, permanent emergency generator** would protect building equipment and ensure the continuity of learning.
  - **New windows** would eliminate drafts and be more **energy-efficient.**
7. Construction would begin this summer.

We believe the Board has made a fiscally and educationally responsible decision to move forward with the April 20 referendum. Any other choice would be walking away from state aid. If the Board does not conduct the referendum and receive your approval, up to \$400,000 in state aid for the project will be forfeited.

Over the next two months, more information will be provided via the district website, the *VIP* newsletter, on Twitter, and in the *Cougar Courier*. Find voter registration information forms on the Hunterdon County Clerk's website at [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.htm).

East Amwell Township School District is a point of pride for our community. The April 20 referendum is an opportunity to improve our facilities at a significantly reduced cost and with no impact on taxpayers. It will benefit our children, our school, and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Miles Jr.', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Charles Miles Jr.  
President  
East Amwell Township Board of Education