

WILMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PRESS RELEASE

WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INVITED INTO MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY PROGRAM

On Wednesday, April 14th the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the “MSBA”) Board of Directors voted to invite the *Statement of Interest* for the Wildwood Elementary School in the Town of Wilmington into the MSBA’s *Eligibility Period*. Wilmington was one of 15 school districts out of 71 who applied and that were invited into their CORE program which assists communities with new school construction and/or renovation.

Beginning on July 1, 2021, a 270-day *Eligibility Period* will begin through which the District and Town will be required to complete a number of tasks that will be central to identifying needs for planning and budgeting for the potential school construction project.

While we have been invited into the MSBA grant program, this does not yet guarantee construction funding. This is only the beginning of a long journey with much work to come over the next 10 months. During this 270-day time period, the District and Town will engage members of our community in an extensive process that will involve the completion of an educational profile, project enrollment, grade configuration options, and more. Through this time period it will be essential that community feedback is gathered to guide and inform the process and the ultimate determination of the type of school building project that will be presented to the citizens of the Town. Through the successful completion of these activities within the *Eligibility Period* the Town will only then be eligible to move forward in the process and potentially be invited into the MSBA’s *Feasibility Study* phase.

This invitation now presents an important and much needed opportunity for our Town and District. Not only does our invitation signal the recognition that the MSBA has in the need of our community to improve the Wildwood Elementary School but it also underscores their commitment to explore with us possible elementary school consolidation. With all six of our elementary schools over fifty (50) years old, the MSBA recognizes that Wilmington is well positioned to benefit from school facility consolidation as a means to improve the teaching and learning spaces for our elementary school students.

Details about the District’s *Eligibility Period* will be sent out in the days ahead and Dr. Brand, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Hull, Town Manager and their senior staff plan to meet with Wilmington’s MSBA project coordinator to start the process of mapping out the essential work that lies ahead.

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