What is a Feasibility Study?

Feasibility studies are a tool to be used by school districts wanting to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options. **Each feasibility study must contain specified performance items, conclusions and/or recommendations for each performance item of the study, and a final conclusion and/or recommendation on the reorganization options for the districts involved in the study.**

During the Feasibility Study, the Town partners with the MSBA to analyze in depth the design options and costs for the renovation and /or reconstruction of a school. It results in a preferred program, design direction, and estimated cost for the school project.

The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to investigate potential options and solutions, including cost estimates for repair, renovations, or new construction, for the deficiencies and issues identified in the submitted Statement of Interest.

According to the MSBA, the Feasibility Study shall include, but is not be limited to:

1. an examination and identification of potential alternatives to construction or renovation of a facility whether or not such alternatives are eligible for Authority reimbursement;

2. one of the alternatives shall be an analysis of a no-build or status quo option, to be used as a benchmark for comparative analysis of all other alternatives;

3. an analysis of school district student school assignment practices and an analysis of available space in other school facilities in the district;

4. the utilization of under-utilized or vacant facilities potentially available for the proposed use for the Proposed Project;

5. the lease, rental or acquisition of existing buildings that could be made available for school use pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B, § 8;

6. the use of regionalizing or tuition agreements with adjacent school districts pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B, § 8;

7. a detailed and itemized cost estimate for each alternative;

8. an evaluation of the environmental and cost impact of construction phasing on students and staff occupying a renovated building, and any relocation options or off-hour construction that may be required for each alternative;

9. an evaluation of the existing conditions at no more than three sites, unless otherwise determined by the Authority, that shall include, but not be limited to, a geotechnical evaluation and soils exploration, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation conforming to 310 CMR 40.00, performed by a licensed site professional.

The Feasibility Study shall include a review of the District's operational and capital budget and said review shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A review and analysis of the Budget Statement for Educational Objectives;

2. A review and analysis of the District's operating and capital budget;

3. An analysis of the ability of the District to support the operating and capital costs of each alternative, including the increased costs of instructional, utilities, maintenance and transportation support and any debt service associated with each alternative, which may be in addition to costs already being incurred.

During the Feasibility Study, the District and its team collaborate with the MSBA to generate an initial space summary, document existing conditions, and establish design parameters, develop and evaluate alternatives, and recommend the most cost effective and educationally appropriate solution to the MSBA Board of Directors.

Who makes final decisions regarding a new school or site for a new school?

Ultimately, Town Meeting and the voters make a final decision about the scope of a project, including costs and location. Throughout the Feasibility Study period, the School Committee and the School Building Committee (SBC) will provide opportunities for public participation and input. The School Committee recognizes that it is critical to gain public input and secure voter support for any school construction project to be successful.

Our Feasibility Study will carefully examine all potential solutions to help us develop the most effective plan. We look forward to partnering with the MSBA to move this potential project forward.