

What is ESPLOST?

The Educational Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) went into effect January 1, 2007.

On September 19, 2006, the citizens of Chatham County approved an Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST). This additional penny of sales tax is estimated to generate up to \$330 million in five years and funds will be used in two ways and \$67 million will be used to retire existing bond debt over the five-year period.

By using ESPLOST funds to pay this bond debt, property owners will save the millage rate equivalent of that \$67 million dollars over the five-year period.

The remaining funds will be used to build seven new schools (two are on new sites and five on replacement sites), provide additions and renovations to several school sites, provide significant upgrades to existing facilities, and provide much needed technology upgrades to the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

ESPLOST: Providing Positive Progress

BY DR. THOMAS LOCKAMY, JR.
SCCPSS SUPERINTENDENT



Lockamy

ESPLOST can best be described in our schools as *providing positive progress*.

Long before work began, the school system did its homework, both in determining the short and long

range needs of our students and by carefully listening to our community. While our children certainly need newer, more functional facilities and more diverse educational options, they also deserve greater security. After all, can anything be more important?

Security fencing and video cameras in our schools are already paying huge dividends. Single-entry access to our schools is eliminating the perceived, yet real threat of an open campus. Enhanced video surveillance provides our principals and Campus Police with the ability to be in several locations at once through the objective lens of our newly installed cameras.

The Woodville Tompkins Technical and Career Institute is providing gateway learning to educational avenues of advanced scholarship and career opportunities that heretofore were only available in post-secondary education. ESPLOST provided that essential financial spark, further endorsed by our business community, to create this near one-of-a-kind educational center which is now directly fulfilling the needs of workforce develop-

ment for local industry.

New and replacement schools are set to begin construction this year with the Godley Station K-8 School, now set to break ground this spring. Butler, Gadsden, Pulaski, Oglethorpe, and Beach will follow close behind with new schools. An all new Westside high school will provide the necessary educational assets to support this area's growing needs. Additionally, several existing schools will enjoy significant upgrades both to their buildings and the necessary infrastructural upgrades to ensure our students are served equitably across our district and better prepared to compete in the 21st century.

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of our greater community, ESPLOST is providing positive progress in the outcomes of our students and a dynamic revival within your public school system.



Students of the Woodville Tompkins Technical and Career Institute, an academy paid for using E-SPLOST.

Savannah Chatham County Public Schools ESPLOST – Proposed Project Summary

New Schools

- New K-8 School (Godley Station) — \$44,586,155
- New High School — \$39,204,659

New Schools Total — \$83,790,814

Replacement Schools

- Beach High School — \$35,070,350
- Butler Elementary School — \$18,961,296
- Gadsden Elementary School — \$18,948,932
- Pulaski Elementary School — \$17,275,466
- Oglethorpe Academy Middle School — \$21,238,350

Replacement Schools Total — \$111,494,394

Additions and Modifications — \$18,380,418

- Classroom Additions:
 - Heard
 - Howard
 - Isle of Hope
 - Largo-Tibet
 - Windsor Elementary
 - Windsor High
 - Modifications:
 - Hesse
 - Low
 - Mercer
 - White Bluff
 - Conversion of Tompkins Middle to Technical Career High School — \$4,250,000
 - Oatland Island Renovations and Upgrades — \$5,196,488
 - Massie Heritage Center Renovations and Upgrades — \$841,025
 - Existing Site Upgrades:
 - Electrical Upgrades — \$4,656,557
 - Flooring and Painting — \$3,203,119
 - ADA Requirement Upgrades — \$9,503,624
 - Mechanical Upgrades (HVAC and Plumbing) — \$7,928,546
 - Site Work (Safety and Security Fencing) — \$2,818,706
 - Specialties (Signage Upgrades) — \$112,075
 - Roofing — \$5,650,000
 - Local School Requests — \$1,389,412
 - Security Equipment — \$2,093,180
 - Classroom Furniture Upgrades and Replacement — \$1,684,000
 - Food Service Equipment Upgrades — \$900,000
- Total Existing Site Upgrades — \$39,939,219**

Total Project List — \$263,892,358

G.O. Bond Debt Reduction — \$67,372,185

Academic Technology Upgrade - Districtwide — \$20,000,000

Program Management — \$6,000,000

Total ESPLOST Proposed Expenditures — \$357,264,543

ESPLOST Projects & Revenues

Project	Budget	Status
Woodville-Tompkins Technical Career Institute	\$4,461,381	Phase II Complete, Phase III Pending
General Obligation Bond Debt Payoff	\$67,372,185	\$26,948,874 paid
Academic Technology Upgrade	\$20,000,000	Completing Phase II
Godley Station K-8 School	\$44,586,155	Construction Start Spring 2009
Butler Elementary School Replacement	\$18,961,296	Design Phase
Gadsden Elementary School	\$18,948,932	Design Phase
Pulaski Elementary School	\$17,275,466	Design Phase
Oglethorpe Charter School	\$21,238,350	Design Phase
Beach High School	\$35,070,350	Design Selection
New High School	\$39,204,659	Design Phase
Windsor Forest Elementary	\$5,643,491	Construction Phase
Oatland Island Educational Center	\$5,196,488	Design Phase
Massie Heritage Center	\$841,025	Design Phase
Video Surveillance (Secondary Schools)	\$2,093,180	Completed
Security Fencing (Elementary and Middle)	\$2,818,740	50% Completed
Bloomington/Pooler Elementary School Re-Roofing	\$2,600,000	Design Selection

ESPLOST Funds Received to Date — \$116,915,561.83

Interest To Date — \$2,397,703.41

Total ESPLOST Revenue To Date — \$119,313,265.24

"We are grateful for the support of Chatham County residents in passing the first ESPLOST. With its passage we are able to provide greater educational opportunities for our students. Woodville-Tompkins Career Technical Institute directly impacts workforce development in this region. The Godley Station K-8 School, addresses growth in western Chatham County and will begin construction in March 2009.

The Savannah-Chatham County School System is fiscally accountable and transparent in our use of ESPLOST funds. Additionally, ESPLOST funds provide jobs for Chatham County residents as we design and construct your educational facilities. ESPLOST is helping to reshape your school system and your community while providing quality educational opportunities for all students in Chatham County."

— Dr. Joe Buck
Savannah-Chatham County School Board President



BUILDING ELEVATION AT ENTRY

A rendering of the new Godley Station K-8 School in Pooler. Construction is set to start in Spring 2009.