How Much Money Does the ESPLOST Bring In?
The current ESPLOST averages about $85,000 per month. That amounts to about $1,020,000 per year, or $5.1 million over the five-year ESPLOST period. Should Bleckley County’s sales tax receipts grow, the referendum will allow up to $6 million to go to the school system over the five-year ESPLOST period.

How Will the ESPLOST Dollars Be Used?
If the ESPLOST continuation passes, the construction projects would begin immediately after the bond proceeds are received, and ESPLOST receipts each year would be used to pay off the bonds.

How Will the Current Primary School be Used?
Once the new primary school is built, the existing primary school will house the Central Office, the 21st Century Community Learning Center After-School Program, and could one day house the Bleckley County Success Academy. One wing could be used for community organizations.

Proposed Projects

- Construct New Primary School
- Add HVAC to BCES Gym & BCPS Gym
- Upgrades to Royal Stadium:
  - Remove concrete bleachers
  - Add new bleachers & move “Home Side” to north stands
  - Add new locker rooms, restrooms, and concession stands
  - Create new entrance
- Add five (5) tennis courts at BCMS
- Add bleachers, concession stand, lights, and restrooms between football field and new tennis courts at BCMS
- Add two (2) tennis courts at BCHS
- Rubberize track at BCHS & add bleachers and lights for track and soccer
- Renovate bus/maintenance shop

NOTE: List Subject to Change Based Upon Construction Costs and Final Budget

Mission
 Inspiring and Empowering Students for Lifelong Success

Vision/Motto
Expect Excellence
“A GSBA Distinguished Board”

A Top-10 Governance Team of the Year Finalist!

Get the latest Board minutes, agendas, and presentations at our eBoard site:

https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/bleckley
What is an ESPLOST?
An ESPLOST is an Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, also known as a SPLOST. A 1¢ sales tax on all retail sales in Bleckley County makes up the school system ESPLOST. Currently, only goods purchased in the county generate local sales taxes.

Is this ESPLOST a New Tax?
No! This vote will simply continue the ESPLOST for another five years.

Why Vote Now?
The Bleckley County School District qualifies for a special “low-wealth project specific” grant that will allow the state to contribute a larger percentage towards the cost of a new primary school. The district barely qualifies for this grant, and waiting could result in losing the $12 million additional funding to be provided by the state. Construction costs are also rising faster than the cost of issuing bonds.

Where Will the ESPLOST Money Be Spent?
The primary purpose of continuing this ESPLOST is to issue and pay off the bonds to be used to build a new Bleckley County Primary School, add HVAC to the gymnasiums/PE facilities at all schools, and upgrade some athletic facilities at BCMS, BCHS, and Royals Stadium. SPLOST funds may also be used for facility improvements, technology, buses, and textbooks. SPLOST funds may NOT be spent on salaries.

Where Has the Current ESPLOST Money Been Spent?
Historically, the Bleckley County School District has used ESPLOST to repay bonds used to finance new schools: BCES in 1996, BCHS in 2005, and BCMS in 2009.

Why Not Just Renovate the Old High School?
Because of the age, condition, and usefulness of the old high school, the state will not provide any money to renovate that building, and the cost to local taxpayers would be much higher than building a new school.

FAQ
Frequently Asked Questions

How Does Bleckley County Schools Use the ESPLOST?
A school system has two main “buckets” of money: one bucket is used to pay teacher salaries, diesel fuel, and other costs needed to operate your schools; the other bucket is primarily used to pay for new buildings and improve existing buildings and facilities. Here’s how it works:

- Local Property Taxes, State and Federal Allocations
- Sales Taxes
- ESPLOST
- Salaries & Operations
- Bonds, Buildings & Improvements

If the school system only has one bucket out of which to pay for all the needs of the system, then buildings, improvements, and bond indebtedness will be paid out of the bucket funded by local property taxes.

More Questions?
Contact:
Steve J. Smith, Superintendent
478-934-2821 Ext. 1100
Steve.Smith@bleckley.k12.ga.us