

MEDFIELD SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

What is the MSBA?

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is a quasi-independent government agency. Its primary mission is to support and fund the construction, renovation, and repair of public school buildings in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The MSBA was established in 2004 as a response to the need for a more systematic and efficient approach to addressing the condition of public school facilities in the state.

The MSBA works in collaboration with local school districts and cities/towns to assess the condition of their school buildings and to develop plans for capital improvement projects. It provides financial assistance and technical expertise to help local communities build or renovate schools that are safe, educationally appropriate, and cost-effective. The goal is to ensure that students across the state have access to high-quality learning environments that promote academic success. To date, the MSBA, has made \$16.6 billion in reimbursements to cities/towns/regional school districts. The MSBA typically accepts only 15-20 projects per year out of the 60-70 that apply for the Core Program with the Statement of Interest (SOI) process.

The MSBA is funded through a dedicated revenue stream of one penny from the states 6.25% sales tax, and it operates under a set of guidelines and regulations to ensure transparency, accountability, and the efficient use of resources. It plays a crucial role in helping Massachusetts communities address the infrastructure needs of their public school systems and in promoting educational equity across the state.

How much of reimbursement could Medfield get from MSBA?

If Medfield is chosen to be a part of the MSBA program, the maximum rate for reimbursement for eligible project expenses would be 42.79%. This reimbursement rate would result in millions of dollars back to the Town of Medfield. For example, our rate of reimbursement during the feasibility phase (2020) was 38.84%. The reimbursement rate resulted in the Town of Medfield receiving \$378,165 of reimbursable costs for the \$1 million allocated at the Annual Town Meeting.

Would the Medfield School Building Committee support partnering with MSBA for another project?

Yes, the MSBA not only provides the financial incentive to participate, it also has a structure and process that has helped towns across the Commonwealth successfully complete construction of new schools and/or renovation of existing buildings.