



ACTON-BOXBOROUGH  
**SCHOOL BUILDING**  
PROJECT



## SAVE THE DATE

December 4, 2017

**Special Town Meetings 7:00 PM**  
**in Acton and Boxborough**

The purpose of these meetings is to vote on a feasibility study for a proposed new Pre-K - 6 twin elementary school building in partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)

*Please attend: 12-4-17, 7PM*  
*-Acton Meeting @ ABRHS*  
*-Boxborough Meeting @ Blanchard Memorial*

*Informational Forums Listed Below*

## BUILDING THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT



@\_ABSBP



@abschoolbuildingproject



Acton-Boxborough School Building Project

Tues, Oct 17 @ 7:00pm - Douglas  
Wed, Oct 25 @ 12:00pm - Acton Library  
Thurs, Oct 26 @ 7:00pm - Boxborough Library  
Sat, Oct 28 @ 10:00am - Douglas  
Mon, Nov 6 @ 12:30pm - Acton Senior Center  
Mon, Nov 13 @ 7:00pm - Gates  
Wed, Nov 29 @ 12:00pm - Boxborough Senior/Community Center  
Wed, Nov 29 @ 7:00pm - Conant  
Sat, Dec 2 @ 10:00am - Douglas



For more information visit [abschools.org](http://abschools.org) or email [abbuilding@abschools.org](mailto:abbuilding@abschools.org)



# The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Building Project

## The Need...

The district underwent a two year Master Planning process which identified capital needs for all eight schools. Built between 1965 and 1970, the Gates, Conant, and Douglas buildings were determined to be the schools most in need of repair and the most overcrowded. The district submitted a request to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), and was one of only 17 districts in the state approved for reimbursement out of 87 that applied. The MSBA agreed that the schools are significantly overcrowded and that the facilities must be updated. On February 15, 2017, Douglas was approved by the MSBA for invitation into the "Eligibility Period" for an elementary school building project. The district has planned a solution which will replace both Douglas and Gates and the district's preschool program.

Built in 1965, Douglas School issues include...

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) non-compliance
  - The entire lower level is only accessible through an exterior ramp
  - Doorways lack the required clearance
- Douglas was designed for 270 students and currently serves 429 students.
  - Special education programs share a temporary modular classroom which can only be accessed through the cafeteria,
  - Student services (English language learning, occupational therapy, physical therapy, reading support, etc) are provided in the hallways and cafeteria,
  - "Temporary" modularity, purchased to provide much needed space, have long surpassed their useful life.

## The Plan...

The proposed plan is to build a twin elementary school to replace the Douglas and Gates elementary schools, which are 50+ years old and have never been renovated. Space in the new twin school will also be built for the district preschool, which is currently located in the 60-year old district Administration Building.

The preferred location of the new twin school would be on the Gates property with Conant as a possible alternative site. It will be built next to the existing school which will continue operating during construction. If it is built on the Gates site, the old Douglas and Gates buildings will be removed to make room for parking and playgrounds. The Douglas and Gates property will be treated as a single campus with a walkway between them.

## The Vote...

On **December 4, 2017, 7:00 pm**, Acton and Boxborough voters will be asked to approve funds to conduct a Feasibility Study for the new school. The cost of the study will be \$1.3 million. The MSBA will reimburse 45.3%, or \$590,000. If the Town Meetings approve the feasibility funds, the remaining \$710,000 will be paid using the existing School District Reserve Fund.

The feasibility study is expected to last 18 months. The result will be a selected site, plan for the twin school, and a solid cost estimate to bring to the two communities for approval in 2019.

Full Project cost estimate ranges:

- Estimated range: \$100 to \$120 million
- State reimbursement estimated at 40% - 45% (\$40 to \$54 million)
  - Estimated Acton share: \$45 to \$60 million
  - Estimated Boxborough share: \$10 to \$12 million

**To learn more about the proposed school building project, please attend an informational forum, or see website: [www.abschools.org](http://www.abschools.org).**

**Please attend Town Meeting on December 4, 2017 at 7:00 pm!**