



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **Three Ellington Schools Receive a Total of \$3.7 Million for HVAC Upgrades**

Seventy-five percent of voters supported the project at referendum

**ELLINGTON, CT** – The Town of Ellington has received three grants totaling over \$3.7 million for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) projects at Ellington High School, Ellington Middle School, and Center Elementary School. The funds come as part of \$56 million in grant funding released by the State. Ellington was one of just 20 Towns that received funding in this round of grant awards.

Proposed projects include upgrading some ventilation systems to Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems (DOAS) which provide greater filtration, add dehumidification, and return air at cooler temperatures than the current infrastructure. Boiler upgrades will happen at Ellington High School and Ellington Middle School. The Building Management Systems at all three schools will also be updated.

*“I’m incredibly pleased that the work that the Board of Education has done on behalf of these projects is being rewarded through these grants,”* **First Selectman Lori Spielman** stated. *“Ellington Public Schools have always been a point of pride within the community and these upgrades will continue to allow our students to flourish.”*

Voters approved the projects totaling \$6.7 million in January by a margin of nearly three to one. The Town will be reimbursed at 55% of the project costs.

*“We need to ensure a healthy environment for our children to learn. Improving our HVAC systems will provide better air quality, more comfortable temperatures, and save us money in the long run. This project is a good investment for our students and staff, and while it may seem like a small improvement, it is something to get excited about.”*

**- Kerry Socha, Board of Education**

In fall 2022, school and town officials were under a tight timetable to meet the December 1<sup>st</sup> grant deadline after the State's September release of the grant application guidelines. The district had commissioned a study on district HVAC systems that was already underway, but it wasn't yet complete. The Boards of Education, Selectmen, and Finance met multiple times to discuss the project, ultimately approving it in time for grant submission.

*“The Permanent Building Committee will be responsible for overseeing these projects moving forward. It's a great opportunity for the schools and the Town to improve indoor air quality for students and staff and replace aging equipment with financial support from the State that we otherwise would not have.”*

**- Peter Welti, Permanent Building Committee Chair**

Ellington submitted three of the 130 applications the state received. In total, only 50 projects were awarded grant funding, including all of Ellington's proposed projects.

*“We're thrilled with the support of our Boards of Education, Selectmen and Finance and the voters of Ellington who have been willing to invest in these long-term capital projects—HVAC and Windermere Elementary—over the past year. Each Board vote has been unanimous and voters have responded with nearly 75% support at each referendum. Ellington is a community that supports its education system, which is why we've been able to see [growth academically](#) in a time where others have not.”*

**- Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent of Schools**

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