

In 2013, the Worcester Public Schools (WPS) submitted Worcester East Middle School (WEMS) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for Accelerated Repair funding consideration. Accelerated Repair projects under the MSBA are only for windows (and doors), boiler, and roof projects.

The MSBA approved WEMS to be accepted into the feasibility stage of Accelerated Repair for all three categories (windows, boiler, and roof). During the feasibility phase, the MSBA contacted the Worcester Public School & Department of Public Works and indicated that the scope of work needed at the school was much greater than the Accelerated Repair program would allow. The city (WPS and DPW) was asked if any of the Accelerated Repair projects needed to continue and if the city was interested in pursuing a larger scope of a renovation project at the school.

Given the condition of the boiler plant, the city decided to maintain the boiler project under the Accelerated Repair program (with work to begin this year) and accepted the MSBA suggestion for expanding the initial scope of the project for the school. This expanded scope would be a complete replacement of all heating & ventilation systems, electrical, and plumbing components (so-called MEP – mechanicals, electrical and plumbing) of the school, as well as the replacement of the windows and roof. This would make the school much more energy efficient as well be an overall better rehabilitation at the school than the three Accelerated Repair projects. As part of the replacement of the school's MEP, it would be necessary to also replace items such as walls, ceilings, floors, etc. in order to properly access these systems. Thus, in addition to a replacement of the MEP, there would also be other important and needed upgrades at the school as well.

Although, it would be necessary to fully identify the full scope of the work with architects and the MSBA, it is certain that the work would be phased over a number of years in order to be completed. There is no intention to move students out of the school in order to complete this work. A bulk of the work would be completed during summer and other vacation periods, and possible temporary relocation of classrooms within the building in the least disruptive manner.

However, in order to continue with this expanded scope of the project, it is necessary to file a Statement of Interest under the traditional core funding program for the MSBA. This project would be filed under the following priority:

5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.

The deadline for submitting projects to the MSBA under the core renovation / replacement program is Friday, April 11, 2014. In order to continue the work that has begun in addressing these systems, it is necessary to file the Statement of Interest to the MSBA to be part of their funding for the current year.