



For Immediate Release

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Hamilton County Breaks Ground on Soddy Daisy Middle School Expansion and Renovation

First Major Groundbreaking Under School Facilities Improvement Plan

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN (June 3, 2026) — Mayor Weston Wamp, Schools Superintendent Dr. Justin Robertson, and community leaders today celebrated the first of a series of groundbreakings modernizing school facilities across the district. Upgrades to facilities have been a primary focus since 2022—already investing nearly \$60 million in deferred maintenance and tens of millions in athletic facilities, including seven turf fields. The expansion and renovation of Soddy Daisy Middle School marks the first major capital project since a brand new Tyner Middle High School opened last year.

“Families continue to choose Soddy-Daisy because of its strong sense of community and commitment to its schools. That pride brings a responsibility to leaders to invest in facilities that match the expectations families have for their children,” said Mayor Wamp. “Commissioner Shipley has been a strong advocate for this project, and his leadership helped accomplish what the community had sought for years.”

The approximately \$35 million project is funded through the county's \$260 million bond issue approved in 2024—part of a countywide effort to modernize aging school facilities. Planned upgrades include all-new classrooms and learning spaces, a new gymnasium, and renovations to the cafeteria and administrative spaces. Once completed, the campus will accommodate up to 650 students, 200 more than it currently serves, providing capacity for both current enrollment and future growth.

“Today’s groundbreaking is an important milestone for Soddy Daisy Middle School and for the students, families, and educators who will benefit from these modernized learning spaces,” said Superintendent Dr. Justin Robertson. “We are grateful to the Soddy-Daisy community for the continued support of their schools, and are proud that this project represents another step toward realizing a broader facilities improvement plan that prioritizes safe, supportive, and innovative environments for students across Hamilton County.”

In 2023, Mayor Wamp and Superintendent Dr. Robertson convened a joint working group to develop a strategy for addressing both immediate facility needs and long-term capital investments across Hamilton County Schools. Soddy Daisy Middle is the first school project to break ground under this plan. Combined with the opening of Tyner Middle

High Academy, this will allow HCS to meet the Opportunity 2030 Strategic Plan goal of reducing the number of poor or unsatisfactory buildings in the district by eight facilities by 2030.

“Soddy-Daisy has always taken pride in its schools, and today’s groundbreaking marks an exciting investment in our students and community,” said District 1 Commissioner Gene-O Shipley. “These renovations will modernize the campus while keeping the school rooted in the community that has supported it for generations.”

County leaders first unveiled conceptual renderings of the new Soddy Daisy Middle School in December 2025, and updated renderings released at today’s groundbreaking reflect minor updates to the future school campus.

“Today is an exciting day for Soddy-Daisy and for everyone who has worked to keep this project moving forward,” said District 1 School Board Representative Steve Slater. “I especially want to recognize my predecessor, Rhonda Thurman, for her years of advocacy and commitment to this community. This groundbreaking builds on that work and reflects our shared responsibility to support the students, families, teachers, and staff who make Soddy Daisy Middle School such an important part of District 1.”

Construction will occur in phases to minimize disruptions to students, staff, and daily school operations and is expected to be completed in December 2028.

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