

What options were considered by the Neary Building Committee?

In 2021-2022, the Capital Planning Committee - School Research Subcommittee completed an evaluation of grade-level configuration options. The subcommittee, which included ex-officio school leaders, an Advisory Committee, a School Committee, and a Capital Planning Committee member, evaluated several grade configuration options for school consolidation. The district used the subcommittee’s recommendations to develop a Statement of Interest to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to consider inviting the Town of Southborough into its Core Building Program.

The Neary Building Committee (NBC) considered twelve options before narrowing it to the preferred option, which the Massachusetts School Building Authorities (MSBA) required as part of its process. Ultimately, NBC narrowed the options and selected a preferred option of a new elementary school, grades two through five, located on the current Neary Elementary School campus. Below is a table of the options that were researched during the process. The options were discussed, reviewed, and vetted at the Neary Building Committee’s open meetings.

Key:

305 Enrollment: Two-Grade Option

450 Enrollment: Three-Grade Option

610 Enrollment: Four-Grade Option

Option	Overview of Twelve Options Studied	# of Students	Notes
1.	Neary - Base Repair (grades 4-5)	305	Selected to Study Further
2.	Woodward - Base Repair	305	Not Selected
3.	Neary - Addition / Renovation (grades 4-5)	305	Not Selected
4.	Neary - Addition / Renovation (grades 3-5)	450	Not Selected
5.	Neary - Addition / Renovation (grades 2-5)	610	Selected to Study Further
6.	Neary - New Build (grades 4-5)	305	Selected to Study Further

7.	Neary - New Build (grades 3-5)	450	Not Selected
8.	Neary - New Build (grades 2-5)	610	Selected to Study Further
9.	Woodward Addition / Renovation (grades 3-5)	450	Not Selected
10.	Woodward Addition / Renovation (grades 2-5)	610	Not Selected
11.	Woodward - New Build (grades 3-5)	450	Not Selected
12.	Woodward - New Build (grades 2-5)	610	Not Selected

*Finn was not studied as it was not part of the District's application to the MSBA's core building program submission. The Neary Building Committee did inquire with the MSBA, which responded by sharing that the Town of Southborough would need to withdraw its application and start from the application submission process. MSBA would consider the Town of Southborough's new application as beginning the process over and would not guarantee an invitation into its Core Building Program.

Neary Building Committee narrowed the ten options to its top three choices, as required by MSBA.

1.	Near New Build (grades 4-5)	305	Not Selected
2.	Neary - Addition / Renovation (grades 2-5)	610	Not Selected
3.	Neary New Build (grades 2-5)	610	Selected

Neary Building Committee narrowed the three options to its preferred option for schematic design, as required by MSBA

1.	Neary New Build (grades 2-5)	610	Preferred Option
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The Preferred Option will be presented at the May 10, 2025, Town Meeting for the citizens to vote. A two-thirds vote of the town meeting attendees is required. The approval of the bonding will be a ballot question on May 13, 2025.

