

ESPLOST



FOR THE KIDS



March 19, 2019

An Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) is a one penny tax that is dedicated for use by school systems to help fund public education. This one penny sales tax can be used to pay for school construction, equipment, and to retire school debt but cannot be used to pay operating expenses, such as salaries and utilities. The one penny tax spreads the responsibility of funding public education to ALL Upson County citizens, as well as to visitors who shop in Upson County.

ESTIMATED REVENUE

Projected Total SPLOST Receipts (5 years)\$15,000,000

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES

Textbooks.....	\$200,000
Student Furniture.....	\$1,000,000
Technology & Communications Equipment.....	\$3,000,000
Security & Safety.....	\$500,000
Buses/Maintenance & SRO Vehicles.....	\$750,000
Schoolwide HVAC.....	\$500,000
Facility/Grounds Maintenance/Kitchen Equip.	\$250,000
Painting & Flooring.....	\$750,000
Athletic/Fine Arts/P.E. Improvements.....	\$2,250,000
Paving.....	\$500,000
Playground Upgrades.....	\$200,000
Building Upgrades	\$5,100,000

Security & Safety

- To include, but not limited to: construction of closed corridors to replace all open-air breezeways between school buildings; keyless entry for external doors; additions & replacement of school and bus security cameras; outside & emergency lighting

Technology/Communications Equipment

- To include, but not limited to: computers; interactive projectors; switches; routers; server equipment; refurbish and/or replace 1:1 computer classroom technology

Athletic/Fine Arts/P.E. Improvements

- To include, but not limited to, construction of a new track complex; softball complex upgrades; new band instruments; Holstun Gym renovations

Referendum March 19, 2019

Since the first ESPLOST was approved in 2002, we have seen:

- Upson-Lee Pre-Kindergarten, made possible by the renovation of the James R. Atwater building on the former R.E. Lee Institute campus
- Hundreds of facility maintenance upgrades, such as painting; flooring; paving; sidewalks; new roofs for the schools; new bleachers for the ULHS gymnasium; cafeteria renovations, including student tables/chairs and kitchen equipment; new HVAC single-room control units; restroom renovations at ULHS & ULPS; ULAS facility renovations; and MORE
- Safety & security improvements, including video surveillance cameras & monitors in schools and parking lots; access control systems for all schools; construction of a closed corridor between the ULMS main building and the 6th grade building; and MORE
- New buses with onboard cameras; a centralized Transportation & Maintenance Facility with 2 maintenance bays with lifts & secured outdoor parking for the bus fleet
- New technology allowing us to achieve district-wide implementation of 1:1 computing; Google Classrooms; STEM classrooms; laptop computers; ipads; interactive peripherals; and MORE
- Elimination of ALL bond debt
- Upson-Lee Fine Arts Center

Schoolwide HVAC

- To include the maintenance or replacement of HVAC systems at all schools

Facility/Grounds Maintenance/Kitchen Equipment

- To include, but not limited to: power equipment; mowers; tractors; lifts; commercial freezers; coolers; ovens; dishwashers

Paving

- To include ULPK, ULPS, ULES, ULMS, ULHS, ULAS parking areas; construction of paved sidewalk from Knight Trail to ULHS

Building Upgrades

- Restroom upgrades; ceiling replacements; lighting upgrades (LED); outside upgrades (gutters, downspouts, etc.); window & door replacements; skylight replacements

A referendum will be held Tuesday, March 19, 2019, to extend the one penny ESPLOST for another five years. This will not increase your current sales tax rate.

ESPLOST Frequently Asked Questions

Is this an additional tax?

No! This is a continuation or extension of the current one penny sales tax for education that was approved by Upson County voters in 2002, 2006, 2009, and again in 2015. It WILL NOT change the existing sales tax for Upson County.

Why do we need to extend our current ESPLOST?

The main purpose of extending the current ESPLOST is to continue to improve facilities and purchase equipment, as well as upgrade technology resources for our students. If these items are not paid for with sales tax, property taxes may need to be increased.

Many of the items paid for by previous ESPLOST pennies seem to be routine maintenance projects (such as paving, roofing, painting, etc.). Why is the school system not paying for these items out of the general operating budget?

ESPLOST allows school systems to shift many capital expenditures out of the general operating budget (which is supported by state revenues and local property taxes) to the sales tax-funded ESPLOST fund (which is supported by all local consumers, many of whom shop but do not own property in Upson County.)

Why is an ESPLOST the best method for funding education projects?

An ESPLOST allows everyone to share in education funding by giving a penny from every dollar spent in Upson County to education. The other option (property taxes) will impact property owners only. This is important because sales tax is paid by everyone who shops in Upson County, residents and visitors.

What will happen if the ESPLOST does not pass?

Without the extension of the current ESPLOST, property taxes may have to be increased. Also, other facility or equipment improvements will not be accomplished, and this will result in lost opportunities for Upson County students. Both property tax payers and students will be penalized if the ESPLOST does not pass.

Why should people who do not have children in school support the ESPLOST extension?

The ESPLOST extension keeps ad valorem taxes stable. Additionally, the children are not the only ones who benefit from good schools. The social and economic strengths of a community are greatly influenced by the school system. Good schools mean well-prepared citizens, a strong labor market, and an inviting atmosphere for both living and working. Good schools make good communities.

Why can't lottery funds be used to fund projects?

Currently, the Thomaston-Upson School System receives no funding for K-12 educational purposes from the Georgia Lottery. Lottery proceeds only partially fund the state Pre-K program and the Hope Scholarship. Also, by law, school systems cannot use lottery funds for school renovation and construction projects.

This flyer is for information purposes only. We encourage all Thomaston-Upson School System stakeholders to be informed and to vote on

March 19, 2019.

Learn more about ESPLOST and how pennies can make BIG CHANGE at www.upson.k12.ga.us