

## **Worcester, Leicester, Gardner, Millbury school building projects advance in state funding program**

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The Massachusetts School Building Authority on Wednesday approved a school repair project in Worcester and moved several other projects in the region to new phases.

The MSBA board of directors agreed to fund slightly more than half of an estimated \$6 million undertaking in Worcester to replace the roof, windows, doors and boilers at the Challenge and Reach Academy, an alternative secondary school for students who are falling behind academically.

The project will be funded through the MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program, which helps school districts pay for building repairs that can be accomplished relatively quickly, compared to major renovations or construction.

Elsewhere in the region, Leicester's middle school building project received approval for the preferred schematic design. Construction of the new school is estimated to cost nearly \$70 million, according to the MSBA.

Also, the board invited two other Central Massachusetts building projects into the project scope and budget phase of the building authority's planning timeline. Gardner's replacement for Waterford Street and Elm Street elementary schools is expected to receive a \$49 million contribution from the MSBA toward its estimated \$90 million total cost, while Millbury's new Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School, projected to cost \$61 million, is in line to get \$24 million from the building authority.