

**Dear Parents and Community Members:**

In the Rochester Public Schools, we work hard every day to fulfill our mission “to inspire, challenge, and empower all students with the knowledge and skills required to reach their full potential, to contribute to future generations, and to become involved members of a global community.” As a result, our students are experiencing success both in and out of the classroom. Our work is not done alone. We are thankful for the support that parents, community members, and local businesses provide to our students.

While our focus will always be to provide exceptional opportunities for our students, we also need to develop a plan to:

- ✓ Address overcrowding in our elementary and middle schools
- ✓ Increase school safety
- ✓ Improve educational support spaces at the middle and high schools

To help accomplish this goal, a Facilities Task Force was formed in June of 2018. This group, made up of parents, business leaders, community members, school board members, and District staff, has been working closely with architects, construction managers, and other consultants to review growth projections as well as the needs of each of our schools. Together, this group has developed the options presented in this survey.

**Ultimately, the School Board is committed to finalizing a plan that reflects the priorities of our taxpayers and meets the needs of our students and staff.** Therefore, we are asking you to please take a few minutes to complete this survey.

To collect this feedback, we are working with School Perceptions LLC, an independent firm with expertise in conducting community surveys. All survey data is returned to School Perceptions and ensures respondents’ anonymity.

**TAKE THE SURVEY IN ONE OF TWO EASY WAYS**

**Online:**

- 1) Go to the survey website: **[www.Feedback2000.com](http://www.Feedback2000.com)**
- 2) Enter your Survey Access Number:

**By Paper:**

If you do not have Internet access, please return the paper survey to any school office or mail to: School Perceptions, 317 East Washington St., Slinger, WI 53086.

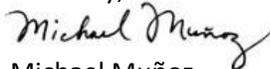
*Additional Surveys: The Survey Access Number can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at 507.328.4500.*

**Please complete the survey before February 22, 2019.**

Survey results will be presented at a School Board meeting on March 5 and will also be available on the District website.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Muñoz".

Michael Muñoz

Superintendent of Rochester Public Schools

## Respondent Information

What is your age?     18-25     26-35     36-45     46-55     56-64     65 and older

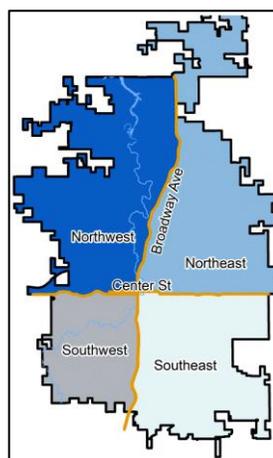
Do you live in the Rochester Public School District?     Yes     No     Not sure

In which municipality do you reside?

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Rochester    | <input type="checkbox"/> City of Oronoco         | <input type="checkbox"/> City of Pine Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Forest Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasant Grove Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Marion Township     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rochester Township   | <input type="checkbox"/> Kalmar Township         | <input type="checkbox"/> Cascade Township    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Township   | <input type="checkbox"/> Oronoco Township        | <input type="checkbox"/> Farmington Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haverhill Township   | <input type="checkbox"/> Viola Township          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hyde Park Township  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zumbro Township      | <input type="checkbox"/> Marion Township         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hammond Township    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above    |  |  |

In which area of the District do you reside? (See map)

- Northeast
- Northwest
- Southeast
- Southwest



Are you an employee of the District?     Yes     No

Do you have children attending school in the District?     Yes     No

If you have school-age children, please check all grade ranges that apply:

- Pre K – Kindergarten     Elementary school     Middle school     High school

## Communication

How do you prefer to receive information from the District? (Check all that apply)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District mailings                           | <input type="checkbox"/> School/District website      | <input type="checkbox"/> Attend meetings      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Attend School Board meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Text message                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Automated phone messenger    | <input type="checkbox"/> TV news coverage     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rochester Post-Bulletin</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Med City Beat</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube)   |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charter Channel 189 (Public Access Channel) |   |   |

Do you follow the District on any of the following forms of social media? (Check all that apply)

- Facebook.com/ISD535     Twitter @RPS535     YouTube @ISD535

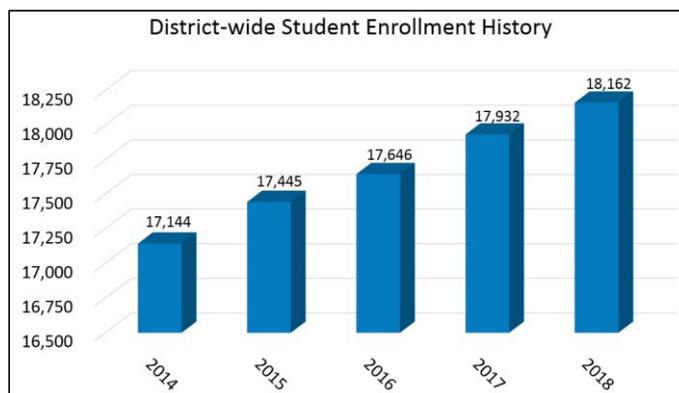
Comments/suggestions to improve District communications:

## Planning Background Information

The Facilities Task Force identified the following issues as the most pressing facing the District:

### Enrollment Growth

In just the past five years, enrollment in the District has increased by more than 1,000 students. A *Community Growth and Housing Study*, conducted by Cooperative Strategies, reports that the District will experience significant housing development over the next five years, including an additional 4,000 to 6,000 multi- and single-family units. As a result, **enrollment is projected to increase by over 1,200 students.**



### School Capacity

The District is **currently operating near capacity**. Based on enrollment projections, the District will be operating over capacity at the elementary and middle school levels in two years. This will require additional classroom space as well as educational support areas such as cafeterias and gyms. **It is important to note that it will take three years after a bond referendum is approved before construction is completed and spaces are available for students.**

Level	Current Enrollment	Capacity*	Current Capacity
Elementary	8,095	8,264	98%
Middle	3,858	3,870	99%
High	4,949	5,341	94%

\*Note: School capacity for K-12 students only.

### Safety/Security

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. Some of our schools' main entrances need to be redesigned to better monitor and control visitor access. This would require all visitors to be routed through the main office before gaining access to the rest of the school. Many schools' door locking systems also need to be updated to remotely monitor all entrances, and emergency alarm systems need to be replaced to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code requirements.

### Outdated Support Spaces

There are a number of support areas that need to be updated in our middle and high schools. Some of the District's pools have outlived their service life while others are in need of updates. The sound and lighting systems in the high schools' auditoriums are in need of replacement, and outdoor athletic spaces need updating.

**In order to secure funding to address the needs above, Rochester School District voters would need to approve a bond referendum.**

<p><b>What advice would you give the School Board?</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Explore a bond referendum</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Do nothing at this time</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Undecided/Would need more information</p>
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**Comments/Suggestions:**

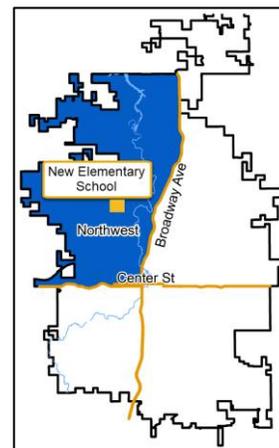
## Recommended Base Plan

After reviewing the enrollment projections, facility assessments, and listening to feedback at four community meetings, the Facilities Task Force is recommending the following Base Plan:  
 (To read the reports, visit [www.rochesterschools.org/referendum](http://www.rochesterschools.org/referendum))

### BUILD A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON DISTRICT-OWNED LAND

This project would build a two-story school in the northwest portion of the District to serve 720 students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade that includes:

- Classrooms and support areas with flexible space for small group instruction, student collaboration, and project-based learning
- A dedicated cafeteria, single-court gym, and stage for performances
- Sufficient parking and proper separation of pedestrians and vehicle/bus traffic
- Energy-efficient systems and natural lighting



**Estimated project cost: \$33 million**

<p><b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to build a new elementary school as described above?</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information</p>
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### RECONSTRUCT BISHOP AND LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bishop and Longfellow Elementary Schools are 59 and 68 years old, respectively. Although the buildings have served the District well, major investments are needed at each school to address the following issues:

- Classrooms and support spaces (kitchens, lunchrooms, libraries, and gyms) are operating over capacity.
- Many of the major building systems (heating, plumbing, and electrical) are energy inefficient, have exceeded their service life, and are in need of replacement.
- The schools lack proper air quality, insulation, acoustics, and natural light.

Due to the number of load-bearing walls and single-story design, remodeling and expanding the existing schools is not an option. Therefore, **the Facilities Task Force is recommending adding needed capacity by reconstructing (tearing down and building new) both schools.** The new two-story schools would be designed to serve 720 students each.

**Estimated project cost: \$33 million per school**

<p><b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to reconstruct Bishop Elementary?</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information</p>
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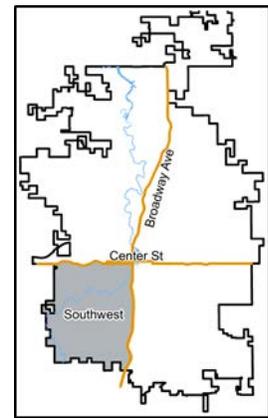
<p><b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to reconstruct Longfellow Elementary?</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information</p>
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**Please provide comments/suggestions for the items on the page. (If you selected "no," please explain):**

### BUILD A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

This project would build a multi-story school on purchased land in the southwest portion of the District to serve 1,200 students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade that includes:

- Classrooms and support areas with flexible space for small group instruction, student collaboration, and project-based learning
- Modern labs/studios to support class offerings in science, art, engineering, design, and family & consumer education
- A dedicated cafeteria, two-court gym, and auditorium
- Sufficient parking and proper separation of pedestrians and vehicle/bus traffic
- Energy-efficient systems and natural lighting



**Estimated project cost: \$62 million**

<b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to build a new middle school?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information
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### IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY

The District has updated many of the school entrances to current safety standards. This project would redesign the main entrances at the remaining schools to better monitor and control visitor access. Once complete, visitors at all Rochester Public Schools will be routed through a school’s main office before gaining access to the rest of the school.

**Estimated project cost: \$2 million**

<b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to improve school safety by updating school entrances?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information
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### Base Plan Funding

The total cost to complete all of the projects in the Base Plan is \$163 million and includes:

Build a new elementary school	\$33 million
Reconstruct Bishop Elementary	\$33 million
Reconstruct Longfellow Elementary	\$33 million
Build a new middle school	\$62 million
Improve school safety	\$2 million

PROJECTED ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE BASE PLAN		
Type of Property	Assessed Tax Value	\$163 million
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	\$35
	\$150,000	\$61
	\$200,000	\$87
	\$350,000	\$166
	\$500,000	\$241
Commercial/Industrial	\$350,000	\$301
	\$1,000,000	\$926

The chart shows the projected tax impact to complete the Base Plan.

To calculate your individual tax impact, visit the Property Tax Calculator: [www.ehlersinc.com/custom/taxinformation/Rochester](http://www.ehlersinc.com/custom/taxinformation/Rochester).

<b>Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Base Plan?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Definitely yes <input type="checkbox"/> Probably yes <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Probably no <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely no
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**Please provide comments/suggestions for the items on the page. (If you selected "no," please explain):**

## Additional Projects

In addition to the Base Plan, the following projects could also be included in a bond referendum (*listed in alphabetical order*):

### ADDRESS REMAINING SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS

The schools' door locking systems need to be updated to allow for remote monitoring of all access points. In addition, the emergency alarm systems need to be replaced to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code requirements. **Estimated project cost: \$4.4 million**

<b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to address the safety and security needs as described above?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information
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### BUILD AND UPDATE HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS, CLOSE MIDDLE SCHOOL POOLS

The swimming pools at the District's middle schools are all in need of significant updates and are too small to serve as competition pools. Century High School is the only high school in the District without a competition swimming pool, and the diving well at Mayo High School's pool needs to be made deeper to meet code requirements.

The District is proposing:

- Closing the middle school pools to save money/reduce annual operating costs and repurpose the space
- Building a competition pool at Century High School
- Deepening the Mayo High School pool diving well

**Estimated project cost: \$9.5 million**

<b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to build and update the high school pools and close the middle school pools as described above?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information
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### BUY LAND FOR FUTURE SCHOOLS

Ongoing enrollment growth is expected in the District. Therefore, it is likely that additional schools will need to be built in the future. The District could purchase 80+ acres of land now that would serve as a future school site. Land parcels of this size may not be available in the future and costs will likely increase.

**Estimated project cost: \$1.5 million**

<b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to purchase land for a future school as described above?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information
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### RECONSTRUCT CHURCHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

To ensure the District has enough elementary capacity, Churchill Elementary could also be reconstructed to serve up to 720 students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Churchill, like Bishop and Longfellow Elementary Schools, is more than 50 years old and has classrooms and support spaces (kitchen, cafeteria, and gym) that are too small to support expansion. Additionally, the single-story design and number of load-bearing walls does not allow the existing school to be remodeled and expanded. **Estimated project cost: \$33 million**

<b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to reconstruct Churchill as described above?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information
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**Please provide comments/suggestions for the items on the page. (If you selected "no," please explain):**

### UPDATE HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FIELDS

The District would like to add artificial turf at John Marshall and Century High Schools as well as build a concession, storage, and restroom facility at Century High School. **Estimated project cost: \$5.5 million**

<b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to update the high school outdoor athletic fields as described above?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information
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### UPDATE SOUND AND LIGHTING SYSTEMS IN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUMS

The lighting and sound systems in all three high schools are old, failing, and unable to meet the schools' needs. As a result, the District is required to regularly rent equipment. Updated systems will provide better quality and energy efficiency. **Estimated project cost: \$2.5 million**

<b>Would you support a referendum that provides funding to update the high school auditoriums as described above?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure/need more information
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Please provide comments/suggestions for the items on the page. (If you selected "no," please explain):

### Funding Support

The cost of the recommended Base Plan is \$163 million. If all the additional projects outlined in the survey were completed, the total cost is estimated at \$219.4 million. Given the cost, the District may have to complete the projects in phases, based on the community's priorities and their willingness to financially support the projects. The following table shows the projected tax impact for various bond referendum amounts.

PROJECTED ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE						
Type of Property	Assessed Tax Value	Bond Referendum Amounts				
		\$163 million (Base Plan)	\$180 million	\$195 million	\$210 million	\$219.4 million
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	\$35	\$39	\$43	\$47	\$49
	\$150,000	\$61	\$68	\$75	\$82	\$87
	\$200,000	\$87	\$98	\$108	\$118	\$124
	\$350,000	\$166	\$186	\$205	\$225	\$236
	\$500,000	\$241	\$270	\$298	\$326	\$343
Commercial/Industrial	\$350,000	\$301	\$338	\$373	\$408	\$429
	\$1,000,000	\$926	\$1,041	\$1,149	\$1,256	\$1,321
<b>How much of a tax increase would you support through a bond referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$219.4 million bond referendum <input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$210 million bond referendum <input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$195 million bond referendum <input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$180 million bond referendum <input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$163 million bond referendum <input type="checkbox"/> I would only support a smaller bond referendum <input type="checkbox"/> I would not support any bond referendum <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information			

To calculate your individual tax impact, visit the Property Tax Calculator: [www.ehlersinc.com/custom/taxinformation/Rochester](http://www.ehlersinc.com/custom/taxinformation/Rochester).

**Comments/suggestions:**

**Rochester Public Schools**  
**615 7th St SW**  
**Rochester, MN 55902**

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**Community Question and Answer Meeting**  
February 4, 2019  
Edison Administration Building  
Board Room  
615 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Rochester  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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*To request a Spanish translated copy of this survey, please call 507-328-4241.  
Para pedir una copia traducida de esta encuesta en español, favor de llamar 507-328-4241.*

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*To request a Somali translated copy of this survey, please call 507-328-4247.  
Si aad u codsatid nuqulka daraasadan oo ku qoran af Soomaali, fadlan wac 507-328-4247.*

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*To request an Arabic translated copy of this survey, please call 507-328-4246.  
لطلب نسخة من هذا الاستطلاع باللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال على الرقم 5073284246.*

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*To request a Vietnamese translated copy of this survey, please call 507-328-4245.  
Nếu Quý Phụ Huynh cần văn bản dịch ra tiếng Việt cho bản thăm dò ý kiến, xin liên lạc theo số điện thoại 507-328-4245.*

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*To request a Khmer translated copy of this survey, please call 507-328-4239.  
សម្រាប់ការស្នើសុំច្បាប់ចម្លងនៃការស្ទង់មតិនេះដែលបានបកប្រែជាភាសាខ្មែរសូមទាក់ទងមកលេខ 507-328-4239*

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**Please complete the survey by mail or online before *February 22, 2019.***

*This publication was produced for the residents of the Rochester Public Schools. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.*