

VOTE MAY 14

IN REFERENDUM FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS



EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS

Inspiring each student every day

INSPIRING NEWS

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EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS

8100 School Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

www.edenpr.org
952-975-7150

2019 / **strong schools.**
safe schools.
successful students.
MAY 14

EPVOTE2019.ORG

A Message from Superintendent Dr. Josh Swanson:

Referendum provides safer schools and reflects our community's academic vision

In 2016, we engaged the community to design our 10-year academic vision for Eden Prairie Schools. The Designing Pathways process studied how our schools and facilities support our students' learning needs. It is rooted in our mission to inspire each Eden Prairie student and prepare them for multiple opportunities after high school.

After Designing Pathways was presented to the School Board, a year was spent to ensure the plan reflected the voice and values of the community. This is a long-term vision that will benefit our students, schools and community. In addition to improving academic spaces, each school would receive safety and security updates. The timing of the bond referendum allowed the board to ask for revenue to accelerate safety improvements. Each student would benefit if voters approve the bond proposal.



We work hard to earn the trust of our public every day. We have gone beyond the promises we made in the 2014 referendum: Class sizes have been lowered in kindergarten through grade three, with smaller grade four classes coming this fall. This year, we started the school year with an enrollment increase of 178 students, a sign that more families are choosing Eden Prairie Schools.

This plan was designed for Eden Prairie Schools to achieve its academic vision. I ask you to review the proposal and make an informed choice in the May 14 election.

Referendum

FAQ

Why is the referendum in May?

State law allows spring elections for school bond requests. School districts can then start construction in the summer to get the best value from the dollars requested and avoid inflation. This timeframe allows major projects, like CMS additions, to be planned in time to start the competitive bidding process in early 2020 and begin construction in spring 2020. *Find more FAQs at epvote2019.org.*

BOND REFERENDUM



Vote NOW at the Administrative Services Center, 8100 School Road, or at a combined polling location on May 14 (see mnvotes.org for your combined polling site).

There are **4** goals for this referendum request:

Improve safety and security across all schools

- Safety remains a top priority. All schools would receive additional security improvements.
- Communication systems would be improved.
- Lockdowns could be implemented faster and in a manner that isolates sections of a building.
- Security upgrades will be tailored to each school.

Improve the middle school learning experience

- Central Middle School would receive its first significant update in 25 years.
- 6th grade students currently are housed in elementary schools; they would move to CMS in 2021.
- An addition of classrooms would provide space for students along with an added gymnasium and an expanded lunch room.
- A theater would be added to the building. Currently a multi-purpose room is used for concerts and performing arts. The theater also could be rented by the community.



This is the current theater arts space at CMS. The room has poor sightlines for viewers, little storage space and limited seating room. This results in some families being turned away at performances due to lack of space.

Support greater academic achievement

- Eden Prairie teachers no longer teach in a one-size-fits-all manner. Many classrooms, however, have not been updated to reflect these 21st century teaching practices.
- Every school across the district would have classrooms updated for collaboration, creative work and critical thinking. Bond funding would update at least half of all elementary and secondary classrooms.

Ensure more children are prepared for kindergarten

- 4-year-old preschool would move to elementary schools in 2021, in classrooms separate from K-5 students; 3-year-old preschool would be at Lower Campus.
- Preschool would not be required; it would remain fee-based and a choice for families.
- Taxpayers would save \$700,000 in annual lease expenses by moving programs out of the Education Center.
- Transportation would be provided; preschool would have a different schedule than K-12 students.



The cost to the average homeowner in Eden Prairie (\$397,400) would be about \$6.50 per month. Find out the specific impact on your property at www.epvote2019.org.



SHOW YOUR WINGS

Name: Kaleb Wait **Grade:** 7 **School:** Central Middle School

My Wings: "Eden Prairie teachers care about us as students. I feel a growing independence because of their support, and that gives me confidence and motivation to do well. The staff work to build relationships with each of us, which makes it fun to come to school every day."



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **April 26 & 27: EPHS Spring Show: Thieves' Carnival**
6 p.m. in the PAC
- **Early voting times at the Administrative Services Center, 8100 School Rd. in Eden Prairie:**
 - Now - May 13, Mon. - Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **EXTENDED VOTING HOURS:**
 - May 4: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 - May 7: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 - May 9: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 - May 11: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 - May 13: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **May 14: Referendum Election Day**
- **May 9: High School Conferences - 4-6 p.m.**
- **May 27: No School - Memorial Day**
- **June 6: Last Day of School**
- **June 7: EPHS Graduation**

EXCERPT **Ep** EXPRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS IN 30 SECONDS



01 Referendum Request

On May 14, 2019, Eden Prairie School District residents will be asked to vote on a one-question bond funding proposal to improve school learning environments and enhance school safety through construction projects at all schools.



Kindergarten 02



Incoming kindergarten families are invited to join us for our Welcome events at each school in May. Visit www.edenpr.org/kindergarten for details.

03 Karla Bratrud

Karla Bratrud was appointed to the Eden Prairie School Board and will serve through December 2019. She brings experience and prior knowledge to the board as she completes a shortened term.

