

# 12 facts

## every voter should know

On November 5, residents will vote whether to approve a bond referendum for school needs.

**1.** On Nov. 5, voters will be asked to approve a bond referendum.

The bond referendum would support a facilities plan developed from the district's strategic plan, mission and beliefs that:

- Accommodates projected enrollment growth
- Provides safe, secure & healthy learning environments for all students through investments in our aging facilities and infrastructure
- Increases opportunities for students by creating a single unified grade 9-12 high school
- Creates flexibly-designed learning spaces to support student-centered instruction

**2.** A successful bond referendum would impact **all** of our buildings and students.

A successful bond referendum would allow the district to implement a comprehensive facilities plan that encompasses all district buildings and addresses questions that have been asked in the community for decades.

**3.** The comprehensive plan resulted from community conversations.

The Facilities Plan is the result of a nearly year-long facilities planning process that included a 90-member Facilities Planning Committee composed of parents, staff and community members.

**4.** The average age of district buildings is 50 years.

The oldest building was built in 1918 and the newest building was built in 2006.

**5.** A successful bond referendum would address students' needs for years to come.

If voters approve the bond referendum on November 5, district facilities would accommodate the Strategic Plan, projected enrollment growth, safety and security improvements, aging facilities and deferred maintenance needs, and the future of educational programming.

**6.** Failure to approve the bond referendum would result in unmet needs.

If the bond does not pass, projected enrollment growth would lead to overcrowded schools, higher class sizes, and insufficient space for educational and community programs. Critical safety, security and maintenance needs would not be addressed. The current split-campus high school experience would continue. Learning spaces would not receive updates to support student-centered instruction.

**7.** Passage of the bond referendum would increase opportunities for students.

The district would be able to maintain smaller class sizes and program space availability with building additions. Safety, security and maintenance needs would be addressed. More of our high school students would be able to better access robust course options including college and career offerings, make connections with each other and staff members, and benefit from personalized and flexible learning experiences.

**8.** ISD 624 is a good steward of the community's investment.

ISD 624 routinely makes budget reductions and finds innovative solutions to live within its means.

- The district has a AA bond rating, which we have received from S&P's every year the district has applied since 2010.
- Our district received excellence in financial reporting awards from both the Assn. of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Assn. for 19 consecutive years.

**9.** Now is the time for investment.

Due to smart fiscal management and old debt being paid off, this comprehensive district-wide plan can be accomplished with a \$326 million bond referendum, which results in a tax impact of about \$23 per month for the average homeowner. A tax calculator tool is available at the district's website, [www.isd624.org/Bond2019](http://www.isd624.org/Bond2019).

**10.** The Facilities Committee discussed various HS options such as:

- keep the status quo of a split high school, complete extensive renovations to both buildings
- expand North Campus to become the district's single unified 9-12 high school, move current Sunrise Park Middle School to South Campus location
- build a brand new high school, leave remaining district buildings as-is

### HS student benefits:

- better access to comprehensive course offerings, including college & career pathway options
- fewer transitions for students during critical adolescent developmental stages
- maintained consistent, longer-lasting staff and student relationships

**11.** The high school plan would work with existing district property.

A single unified grade 9-12 high school could be built on the existing property already owned by the district.

The district would consider purchasing neighboring homes from interested sellers if expansion made sense. The Board will not use eminent domain.

**12.** The future is bright.

- The district's student enrollment numbers are strong, with continued residential growth projected in the next decade.
- The district's new Strategic Plan is guiding the work of our district and schools, prioritizing student agency and access, engagement and support, and respect of diversity of people and ideas.



On November 5, 2019, residents of the White Bear Lake Area School District will vote whether to approve bond funds to address building needs across the district.

The School Board unanimously approved bringing the request to voters after an extensive strategic planning process and a nearly year-long facilities planning process that included a 90-member Facilities Planning Committee composed of parents, staff and community members.

## What's on the ballot?

A request for voter approval to address building needs across the district:

- facilities alignment with priorities identified in the district's Strategic Plan,
- district-wide additions and renovations to accommodate projected enrollment growth,
- safety and security improvements and deferred maintenance projects,
- classroom and building updates to create flexible learning spaces.

Funds would also address building-specific changes, primarily driven by enrollment growth and classroom needs:

- A new K-5 elementary school in Hugo,
- Converting Oneka from grades 2-5 to a K-5 elementary and Hugo Elementary from grades K-1 to a northern Early Childhood location,
- Expanding the current grades 9-10 North Campus to become the district's unified grade 9-12 high school,
- Sunrise Park Middle School moving to the current grades 11-12 South Campus location,
- The current Sunrise Park Middle School site becoming the site for various community programs including the Senior Center and Early Childhood programs currently housed at Normandy Park, the Transition Education Center currently located in leased space in Hugo, and the district office,
- Central Middle School expanding to take over the current District Center building.

## Did you know?

- The district projects more than 2,000 new students will enroll during the next ten years due to housing growth, which is 25% higher than current capacity. This is on top of more than 7% growth since 2010.
- The expansion of the North Campus into a four-year comprehensive high school can be done completely on land already owned by the district, providing a centrally located grade 9-12 high school, unifying district students.
- Additional facts can be found on the reverse of this Fact Sheet.

## Voting information

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 5. Polling locations, absentee applications and early voting information are all available at [isd624.org/Bond2019](http://isd624.org/Bond2019). Questions? Visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) or call 651-407-7563.

## Learn more

**VISIT:** [www.isd624.org/Bond2019](http://www.isd624.org/Bond2019)

**EMAIL:** [Bond2019@isd624.org](mailto:Bond2019@isd624.org)

**CALL:** 651-407-7563

### ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING:

» 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 24  
District Center  
4855 Bloom Ave, WBL

» 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 2  
Hugo Elementary  
14895 Francesca Ave N, Hugo

» 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 3  
Vadnais Heights Elementary  
3645 Centerville Rd, VH