



Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! On the reverse you will find annual legal notices and important updates. But first, please take a moment to learn about an important initiative happening this fall.



### Building Our Future - Vote Nov. 5

On November 5, White Bear Lake Area School District residents will vote whether to provide funding for building needs across the district identified during a nearly year-long facilities planning process that included a 90-member Facilities Planning Committee, several School Board discussions, community surveys, and demographic and facilities studies.

If approved, the bond funding would provide space for our growing enrollment, improve school safety and security, address deferred maintenance needs and update classrooms for more flexible learning spaces. The plan impacts all buildings and students. It also addresses the current split-campus high school model, creating a single, unified 9-12 high school experience for our students that could be built on the existing property already owned by the district.

I invite you to learn what you can as we share factual information with families this fall. Each building and program has a Referendum Site Team made up of staff and family members. These teams are excited to share information with the school communities, so look for information to be available at events in your students' buildings!

Additionally, the district will be providing information to families throughout the fall via e-newsletters, voicedrops and social media. Please watch for these updates to be coming and familiarize yourself with the information. The most complete and up-to-date information regarding the upcoming bond referendum can also be found at the district's website, specifically at [www.isd624.org/Bond2019](http://www.isd624.org/Bond2019).

I look forward to a terrific year!

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak  
Superintendent

[www.isd624.org](http://www.isd624.org) 651-407-7500



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# It's a 624 Fact

## Mission

The mission of the White Bear Lake Area School District, the community at the forefront of educational excellence, honoring our legacy and courageously building the future, is to ensure each student realizes their unique talents and abilities, and makes meaningful contributions with local and global impact through a vital system distinguished by:

- Students who design and create their own future
- Diversity of people and ideas
- Safe, nurturing and inspiring environments
- Exceptional staff and families committed to student success
- Abundant and engaged community partners

## Equity Commitment

To nurture the whole student, we disrupt systemic inequities by recognizing, honoring, and embracing all cultures with humility and respect.

## Stewardship

- The White Bear Lake Area School District has received the **excellence in financial reporting awards** from both the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for **19 consecutive years**.
- The district has a **AA bond rating**, which we have received from S&P every year the district has applied since 2010.
- In recent years, our strong bond rating has resulted in **savings to taxpayers of approximately \$2 million** in interest costs.

## District Policies

Complete School Board policies can be found at <https://www.isd624.org/about/district-policies>

## Mark Your Calendar!

Sept. 23-28: Homecoming Week  
 Sept. 27: Parade & Football Game  
 Sept. 28: BearPower Homecoming  
               6.24K Family Fun Run/Walk  
               & All-School Reunion  
 Oct. 4: Deadline for Directory Info  
               & Military Release opt-outs

### BOND REFERENDUM PUBLIC MEETINGS

Sept. 24: 7 p.m. at District Center  
 Oct. 2: 7 p.m. at Hugo Elem  
 Oct. 3: 7 p.m. at Vadnais Heights Elem

## IMPORTANT DISTRICT NOTICES

### Student Directory Information

Student directory information is considered “public” under state and federal laws. Unless parents give specific instructions to the contrary, schools must release directory information to anyone who requests it.

Public directory information includes, but is not limited to: the student’s name, photograph, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

If you do not wish for this information to be given out about your child, send written notification including: name of the student and/or parent, if applicable; home address; school presently attended by student; parent’s legal relationship to student, if applicable; and specific categories of directory information to be made not public without the parent’s or eligible student’s prior written consent, which shall only be applicable for that school year. Notification should be sent to: Restrict Directory Data, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110, no later than Friday, October 4, 2019.

Complete White Bear Lake Area School Board policies can be found at [www.isd624.org/about/schoolboard-policies.asp](http://www.isd624.org/about/schoolboard-policies.asp)

### Release of 11th/12th Grade Data to Military Recruiters

Federal law requires high schools to provide military recruiting officers access to public directory data (above) and the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of all 11th and 12th grade students. Parents have a right to refuse release of this data by sending written notification to: Refuse Release to Military Recruiters, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110, no later than Friday, October 4, 2019.

### Stay connected!

**Community e-Newsletter** “Join Our Email List” on the Community e-Newsletter page of the District website (under the About tab) to receive the twice-a-month electronic publication. A video edition is sent out twice a month as well.

**Stay Social** Join White Bear Lake Area Schools’ social media circles - Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Find links on the District’s website.

**Community Channel** Watch us on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area with District information and updates. School Board meetings are broadcast after regular business meetings on Wed. at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Thurs. at 10 a.m.

### Free or reduced-price school meals

District families may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. To apply, families should complete the Application for Educational Benefits available online (on the District’s website on under “District News” and the “Free/Reduced Lunch Applications” link) or using a paper form available at schools. A new application must be submitted each year. At public schools, applications also help the school qualify for education funds and discounts.

## BOND REFERENDUM FACTS



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

### What’s on the ballot?

A request for bond funds to support construction projects across the district to:

- Accommodate projected enrollment growth
- Provide safe, secure & healthy learning environments for all students
- Create a single unified grade 9-12 high school
- Create flexibly-designed learning spaces to support student-centered instruction

If voters approve the bond referendum request, it would address students’ needs for years to come. Funds would help implement a facilities plan to support the Strategic Plan, projected enrollment growth, safety and security improvements, aging facilities and deferred maintenance needs, and the future of educational programming.

### What if the request is not approved by voters?

- The 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.

### What will it cost?

If voters approve the \$326 million bond request, the tax impact on the average homeowner (\$275,000 value home) would be about \$23 per month. The tax impact is relatively low for such a comprehensive plan due to current debt that is being paid off.

### Voting information

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 5. Polling locations, absentee applications and early voting info are all available at [isd624.org/Bond2019](http://isd624.org/Bond2019).

### 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 *Bond Referendum Public Meeting*:  
Sept. 24: 7 p.m. at District Center  
Oct. 2: 7 p.m. at Hugo Elem  
Oct. 3: 7 p.m. at Vadnais Heights Elem

*Prepared and paid for by ISD 624. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.*



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