Where students learn matters. This fall, Boulder Valley School District voters will cast ballots on a $350 million bond-funded school building investment proposal. Our 2022 Facilities Critical Needs Plan outlines a strategy for investing in all BVSD schools to address major maintenance needs in aging buildings to extend their useful life; replace New Vista High school; plan for enrollment growth; create more Career and Technical Education opportunities; and make it easier for students of all physical abilities to enjoy our playgrounds.

**Aging Buildings**

All students will benefit from safe, functional, comfortable schools; Taxpayer investments are optimized by extending the useful life of facilities.

BVSD owns and operates 61 buildings constructed in nearly every decade of the last 140 years. Over time, building materials and equipment age, wear out, and become outdated. BVSD must invest in maintaining and updating facilities on an ongoing basis to ensure they are safe and functional and can continue to serve students for decades to come.

In some cases, when a building has aged to the point where the cost to repair and renovate is significant enough, it makes more sense to replace the school rather than continue to invest in a worn out, outdated building. As such, the Facilities Critical Needs Plan calls for the 70-year old New Vista High School building to be replaced with a new building on the same site.

**Overcrowding**

Continued growth, driven by new housing developments, has already caused overcrowding in some of our schools in the northeastern part of the district, especially Meadowlark School. BVSD’s only school in Erie is already over its enrollment capacity at the elementary-level. With additional subdivisions planned for the area, a new school campus, serving grades PK-5 will be needed in coming years.

**Expanding Educational Opportunities and Post-Graduation Readiness | Career and Technical Education**

BVSD has recognized the need to expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities, and is ready to transform the student experience in college and career preparedness. In this plan, we are proposing renovations at PK-8, middle, and high schools that will expand or create flexible, agile spaces where students can experience industry-inspired environments with the latest equipment, helping them acquire valuable technical skills along with the real-world, hands-on experiences that lead to high-wage and high-growth jobs that are in high-demand.

**Improving ADA Access on Playgrounds**

So that students of all physical abilities can benefit from play and exercise, playground mulch on a number of elementary playgrounds would be replaced with rubberized solid surfaces that are wheelchair friendly.

Arguments in support of and opposed to this ballot question can be found in the blue book mailed with ballots.