



July 24, 2025

Dr. Ann-Marie Foucault, Superintendent
St. Michael-Albertville Public School District, ISD #0885-01
11343 50th Street NE
Albertville, MN 55301-9769

Dear Dr. Foucault:

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, requires a review and comment statement on the educational and economic advisability of your proposed school construction project. Information supplied by your school district and from Minnesota Department of Education sources is the basis of this review and comment. With this positive review and comment, voter and school board approval are required for St. Michael-Albertville Public School District, Independent School District #0885-01, to proceed with the proposed projects.

The district shall publish a summary of the review and comment statement (the final two pages) in the legal newspaper of the district at least 48 days, but not more than 70 days, prior to holding a referendum for bonds or soliciting any bids for the construction, expansion, or remodeling of an educational facility. The department may request a statement certifying the publication, and require the submission, review, and approval of preliminary and final construction plans.

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, requires the commissioner to include comments from residents of the school district in the review and comment. As of the date of this letter, no public comments have been received. In addition, Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, ***requires the school board hold a public meeting to discuss the review and comment prior to the date of the bond referendum election.***

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, ***requires that a school district, prior to occupying a new or renovated facility after July 1, 2002, must submit a certification prepared by a system inspector to the commissioner and the building code official that will provide an occupancy permit.*** The certification must verify that the facility's installed or modified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system operates according to design specifications and code, a system for monitoring outdoor airflow and total airflow of ventilation systems has been installed, and any installed or modified heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system provides an indoor air quality filtration system that meets ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) Standard 52.1.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kubesh, Education Finance specialist, at 651-582-8319 or chris.kubesh@state.mn.us. Thank you for working with us to improve school facilities for Minnesota students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willie L. Jett II'.

Willie L. Jett II
Commissioner

cc: Drew Scherber, School Board Chair

Enclosure

**The Commissioner of the Department of Education
Review and Comment on the School Construction
Proposal of St. Michael-Albertville Public School District, ISD #0885-01**

A review and comment must be provided on a school district construction project proposal before the district conducts a referendum, solicits bids, or issues bonds for the project. A project proposal has been submitted for review and comment according to requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, subdivisions 9 and 10, and Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72. The district provides the following information:

1. The geographic area and population to be served:
 - a. preschool through grade 12 student enrollment for the past five years, and
 - b. student enrollment projections for the next five years.
2. A list of existing school facilities:
 - a. by year constructed,
 - b. their uses, and
 - c. an assessment of the extent to which alternate facilities are available within school district boundaries and in adjacent school districts.
3. A list of specific deficiencies of the facility:
 - a. demonstrating the need for a new or renovated facility to be provided,
 - b. the process used to determine the deficiencies,
 - c. a list of those deficiencies that will and will not be addressed by the proposed projects,
 - d. a list of specific benefits that the new or renovated facility will provide to students, teachers, and community users served by the facility.
4. A description of the project, including:
 - a. specifications of site and outdoor space acreage,
 - b. square footage allocations for classrooms, laboratories and support spaces,
 - c. estimated expenditures for major portions of the project,
 - d. estimated changes in facility operating costs, and
 - e. dates the project will begin and be completed.
5. A specification of the source of project financing, including:
 - a. applicable statutory citations,
 - b. the scheduled date for a bond issue or school board action,
 - c. a schedule of payments, including debt service equalization aid, and
 - d. the effect of a bond issue on local property taxes by property class and valuation.
6. Documentation obligating the school district and contractors to comply with the following items:
 - a. Minnesota Statutes, section 471.345 governing municipal contracts,
 - b. sustainable design,
 - c. school facility commissioning under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72, certifying the plans and designs for heating, ventilating, air conditioning and air filtration for an extensively renovated or new facility meet or exceed current code standards, including ASHRAE air filtration Standard 52.1,
 - d. American National Standards Institute (ANSI) acoustical performance criteria, design requirements and guidelines for schools on maximum background noise levels and reverberation times,
 - e. state fire code,
 - f. chapter 326B governing building codes, and
 - g. consultation with affected government units about the impact of the project on utilities, roads, sewers, sidewalks, retention ponds, school bus and automobile traffic, access to mass transit and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Description of Proposed School Construction Project

St. Michael-Albertville Public School District, ISD #0885-01, is proposing a two-question referendum on November 4, 2025. The first ballot would authorize an increase in the district's annual, per-pupil, operating referendum by \$275 for taxes Payable in 2026 and 2027, and by \$835 for taxes payable in 2028 through 2035.

The second ballot question would authorize \$21 million in bonding authority to finance districtwide facility improvements projects. A majority of the proposed projects focus on the high school and include: a classroom addition for STEM instruction, artificial turf and lighting upgrades for the ballfields, and upgrades to classrooms, fitness center and media center. Other proposed projects include: districtwide security upgrades, playground surface improvements at the elementary schools and fire panel upgrades.

The projects proposed would be scheduled for completion in calendar years 2027 and 2028. Cost estimates by location/project component are as follows:

High School		St. Michael Elementary	
Stem Center Addition	\$4,472,000	Media Center Upgrades	\$125,000
Theater Space / Classroom Renovations	\$400,000	Playground Surfaces	\$236,448
Media Center Upgrades	\$462,500	FF&E / Technology	\$36,145
Fitness Center Upgrades	\$365,000	Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$90,362
Artificial Turf - Ballfields	\$1,142,000	Contingency	\$48,795
Athletic Field Lighting	\$502,000		\$536,750
Fire Panel Upgrades	\$500,000		
FF&E / Technology	\$941,220	Albertville Primary	
Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$2,039,831	Playground Surfaces	\$272,328
Contingency	\$1,058,872	Playground Equipment	\$32,679
	\$11,883,423	Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$68,082
		Contingency	\$36,765
			\$409,854
Community Education			
Playground Surfaces	\$74,232	Big Woods Elementary	
Playground Equipment	\$11,135	Playground Surfaces	\$344,400
Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$22,270	Fire Panel Upgrades	\$250,000
Contingency	\$10,021	Playground Equipment	\$47,552
	\$117,658	Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$148,600
		Contingency	\$80,244
			\$870,796
Districtwide			
Technology / Security Upgrades	\$5,600,000		
FF&E	\$112,000	Fieldstone Elementary	
Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$280,000	Playground Surfaces	\$351,720
Contingency	\$307,999	Fire Panel Upgrades	\$250,000
Bond Issuance	\$205,276	Playground Equipment	\$48,138
	\$6,505,275	Fees / Testing / Permits / Services	\$150,430
		Contingency	\$81,232
			\$881,520
Total Project Cost Estimate	\$21,205,276		

The district currently has around 6,700 students enrolled in K-12 programming and is projecting enrollment growth to just over 7,000 students in the next five years. In the 2024-2025 school year, 1,528 non- resident students open-enrolled into the school district and 226 resident students open-enrolled out of the district.

The district believes that operational cost increases from the proposed STEM addition can be met with existing operating revenues. The proposed projects appear to be in the long-term interest of the school district.

If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.53, subdivision 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and is dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements

Review and Comment Statement

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

Additional Information is Available

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.



Willie L. Jett II
Commissioner

July 24, 2025