

## 2026 Bond Referendum Summary

### Purpose of the Bond Referendum

Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) is bringing forward a bond referendum to address critical facility needs across the district. This proposal is based on the updated 2025 Long-Range Facilities Plan, which builds upon prior work completed in 2020 and 2023 and incorporates extensive community input.

The bond focuses on four primary areas:

- Keeping Students Safe & Supported
- Modernize and Improve Efficiency
- Plan Responsibly for Growth
- Enhance Community Use

This referendum ensures that BPS can maintain safe, functional, and future-ready schools while responsibly managing long-term costs.

### Why This Bond is Needed

#### 1. Aging Facilities and Deferred Maintenance

Many district buildings are experiencing significant wear and require system upgrades or replacement. Common issues across schools include:

- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) reliability
- Roofing and building envelope repairs
- Plumbing and restroom upgrades
- Electrical and lighting improvements
- Parking lots, traffic flow, and site safety concerns

Addressing these needs proactively reduces long-term costs and prevents emergency repairs.

#### 2. Enrollment Growth and Capacity Pressures

Bismarck continues to experience growth, particularly in southside neighborhoods. Several schools are exceeding or approaching capacity, including:

- Solheim Elementary
- Moses Elementary

The bond includes funding for:

- Elementary school additions
- Expansion of core spaces such as cafeterias, kitchens, and multipurpose rooms
- Improved traffic flow and site circulation for safety

### 3. Modern Learning Environments

Educational delivery has evolved, and many buildings no longer support current instructional and student support needs. The bond addresses:

- Additional special education and intervention spaces
- Expanded career and technical education (CTE) opportunities
- Improved performing arts and activity spaces
- Enhanced school-based mental health (SBMH) areas
- Secure entrances and safety upgrades

### **Community Input and Support**

BPS gathered feedback through:

- Districtwide online surveys
- In-person community meetings

Two consistent themes emerged:

1. Maintenance needs must be addressed
2. Schools need updated and expanded learning spaces

Community members emphasized that facility condition, safety, and instructional quality are interconnected and should be addressed together.

### **What the Bond Will Fund**

The proposed bond includes investments across all school levels:

#### Elementary Schools

- Additions for classrooms, kitchens, and multipurpose spaces
- Accessibility improvements (elevators, ADA compliance)
- Replacement of outdated mechanical systems

- Removal of portable classrooms

#### Middle Schools

- Expanded cafeteria and common spaces
- Mechanical system upgrades
- Improved instructional and support areas

#### High Schools

- Expansion of activity, athletic, and performing arts spaces
- Modernization of instructional areas
- Infrastructure upgrades to extend building life

#### Districtwide Investments

- New elementary school or additions in growth areas
- Central kitchen to improve efficiency and reduce costs
- Career Academy expansion (Phase II)

#### Financial Stewardship

The bond proposal is aligned with the district's Long-Range Financial Plan and prioritizes:

- Strategic phasing of projects
- Cost efficiency and lifecycle management
- Reduction of future emergency repairs
- Operational savings (e.g., central kitchen estimated at ~\$533,500 annually)

#### **Impact to the Community**

This bond referendum will:

- Maintain safe and functional schools
- Support student learning and well-being
- Address growth and overcrowding
- Protect community investment in school facilities
- Ensure BPS remains a strong, competitive district for families and staff

## Summary

The 2025 Bond Referendum represents a comprehensive and community-informed plan to:

- Address aging infrastructure
- Expand capacity where needed
- Modernize learning environments
- Plan responsibly for the future

By investing now, Bismarck Public Schools can avoid higher costs later while ensuring all students have access to safe, high-quality learning environments.

## Next Step

Voters will have the opportunity to consider this proposal in the upcoming bond referendum election.

## Summary of Projects

|                                  | Long-Range<br>Priority                     | Low Priority | Moderate<br>Priority | High Priority | Immediate<br>Priority |                          | Programatic<br>Improvements         |                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| District Buildings               | Priority                                   |              |                      |               |                       | Deferred Maint.<br>Total | Remodel/<br>Additions/<br>New Bldgs | District Total |
|                                  | 0 to 1                                     | 1.1 to 2     | 2.1 to 3             | 3.1 to 4      | 4.1 to 5              |                          |                                     |                |
| BECEP-Richholt                   |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ 598,240    | \$ 1,041,840          | \$ 1,640,080             | \$ -                                | \$ 1,640,080   |
| Centennial Elementary School     |                                            |              | \$ 270,720           | \$ 737,828    | \$ 519,660            | \$ 1,528,208             | \$ 2,994,600                        | \$ 4,522,808   |
| Elk Ridge Elementary School      |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ -                                | \$ -           |
| Grimsrud Elementary School       |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ 5,945,195                        | \$ 5,945,195   |
| Highland Acres Elementary School |                                            |              | \$ 445,860           | \$ 1,488,200  | \$ -                  | \$ 1,934,060             | \$ 1,454,400                        | \$ 3,388,460   |
| Liberty Elementary School        |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ -                                | \$ -           |
| Lincoln Elementary School        |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ -                                | \$ -           |
| Miller Elementary School         |                                            |              | \$ 552,240           | \$ 851,480    | \$ 214,560            | \$ 1,618,280             | \$ 682,600                          | \$ 2,300,880   |
| Moses Elementary School          |                                            |              | \$ 1,447,200         | \$ 780,320    | \$ 1,392,300          | \$ 3,619,820             | \$ 3,850,000                        | \$ 7,469,820   |
| Murphy Elementary School         |                                            |              | \$ 450,180           | \$ 874,420    | \$ 1,076,040          | \$ 2,400,640             | \$ -                                | \$ 2,400,640   |
| Myhre Elementary School          |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ 7,124,510                        | \$ 7,124,510   |
| Northridge Elementary School     |                                            |              | \$ 157,000           | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ 157,000               | \$ -                                | \$ 157,000     |
| Pioneer Elementary School        |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ 4,300,000                        | \$ 4,300,000   |
| Prairie Rose Elementary School   |                                            |              | \$ 59,400            | \$ 1,306,800  | \$ -                  | \$ 1,366,200             | \$ 801,800                          | \$ 2,168,000   |
| Roosevelt Elementary School      | Addressed through<br>General/Building Fund |              | \$ 396,000           | \$ 1,818,440  |                       | \$ 2,214,440             | \$ 966,040                          | \$ 3,180,480   |
| Silver Ranch Elementary School   |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ -                                | \$ -           |
| Solheim Elementary School        |                                            |              | \$ 436,320           | \$ 750,600    | \$ 429,120            | \$ 1,616,040             | \$ 8,000,000                        | \$ 9,616,040   |
| Sunrise Elementary School        |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ -                                | \$ -           |
| Will Moore Elementary School     |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ 1,650,000                        | \$ 1,650,000   |
| New Elementary or Additions      |                                            |              |                      | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     |                                     | \$ -           |
| Horizon Middle School            |                                            |              | \$ 385,200           | \$ 1,756,800  | \$ -                  | \$ 2,142,000             | \$ -                                | \$ 2,142,000   |
| Simle Middle School              |                                            |              | \$ 1,775,520         | \$ 687,240    | \$ -                  | \$ 2,462,760             | \$ 615,600                          | \$ 3,078,360   |
| Wachter Middle School            |                                            |              | \$ 285,300           | \$ 986,740    | \$ 1,581,120          | \$ 2,853,160             | \$ 411,375                          | \$ 3,264,535   |
| Bismarck High School             |                                            |              | \$ 250,560           | \$ 1,327,820  | \$ 1,296,000          | \$ 2,874,380             | \$ 4,012,200                        | \$ 6,886,580   |
| Century High School              |                                            |              | \$ 287,280           | \$ 859,940    | \$ 2,976,480          | \$ 4,123,700             | \$ 21,111,852                       | \$ 25,235,552  |
| Legacy High School               |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ -                                | \$ -           |
| South Central High School        |                                            |              | \$ 547,740           | \$ 1,551,600  | \$ 22,320             | \$ 2,121,660             | \$ 212,250                          | \$ 2,333,910   |
| Hughes Educational Center        |                                            |              | \$ 1,418,400         | \$ 347,000    | \$ -                  | \$ 1,765,400             | \$ 362,880                          | \$ 2,128,280   |
| Career Academy                   |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ -                                | \$ -           |
| Career Academy - Silver Ranch    |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ 2,500,000                        | \$ 2,500,000   |
| Sanford Athletic Complex         |                                            |              | \$ -                 | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ 89,280                           | \$ 89,280      |
| Facilities and Transportation    |                                            |              | \$ 228,960           | \$ 68,400     | \$ -                  | \$ 297,360               | \$ -                                | \$ 297,360     |
| Central Kitchen                  |                                            |              |                      | \$ -          | \$ -                  | \$ -                     | \$ 6,000,000                        | \$ 6,000,000   |
|                                  | \$ -                                       | \$ -         | \$ 9,393,880         | \$ 16,791,868 | \$ 10,549,440         | \$ 36,735,188            | \$ 73,084,582                       | \$ 109,819,770 |
|                                  |                                            |              |                      |               |                       | \$ 38,571,947            | 2025                                | \$ 115,310,759 |
|                                  |                                            |              |                      |               |                       | \$ 40,500,545            | 2026                                | \$ 121,076,296 |
|                                  |                                            |              |                      |               |                       | \$ 42,525,572            | 2027                                | \$ 127,130,111 |