



On May 14, 2019, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District 622 residents will be able to vote whether to fund school improvements across the district.

**Our vision is to provide safe, up-to-date, and healthy learning environments for all District 622 students to help prepare them to be ready for tomorrow.**

**WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?**

Over the past two years, district staff and building experts have been assessing the age, efficiency, and learning environments in our schools, while gathering community input. The resulting recommendation is to:

- Update facilities across the district
- Reduce from three middle schools to two, which would align with our two high schools
- Consolidate nine elementaries into seven larger, renovated schools

**Main components:**

- ✓ Add secure entrances to all schools (\$33M)
- ✓ Provide all schools with modern furniture and flexible classroom spaces for independent, small group, and large group learning (\$14M)
- ✓ Renovate and/or expand five schools (\$147M)
- ✓ Build two new elementary schools (\$77M)
- ✓ Close or repurpose some schools (\$4M)

**WHY NOW?**

- Most of our school buildings are over 50 years old and not designed for today's learning environment.
- Many buildings have traffic congestion, safety, and security concerns.
- Teachers are using closets and other inappropriate spaces for small group work and staff offices.
- Classroom furniture is designed for lecture, with little flexibility for small group, large group, one-on-one, and collaborative learning.
- Many buildings have roofs, parking lots, fixtures, heating systems, and equipment in need of updates and repair.
- Our school locations and boundaries do not align with our student populations, causing overcrowding and segregation in some areas.
- It is less expensive to build some new schools, consolidate others, and update the rest than it would be to fix all our existing buildings.
- Keeping buildings up-to-date, safe, and healthy sometimes requires major investments, much like maintaining a home.

**WHAT IS THE COST?**

If voters approve the referendum, the tax increase for the average homeowner\* would be \$5 per month. While the total project costs are \$275 million, the district is able to do this work with a minimal tax increase since the current debt is being paid off.

\*\$200,000 value home

**IF VOTERS APPROVE THE REFERENDUM**

SCHOOL SITES	CONSTRUCTION PLANS
ALL schools	Secure entrances, flexible learning spaces, modern furniture, improved air quality
Carver Elementary	Academic expansion
Cowern Elementary	Secure entrance, flexible learning spaces, and modern furniture
Eagle Point Elementary	Build new 800-student building on existing site, then remove old building
Weaver Elementary	Secure entrance, flexible learning spaces, and modern furniture
John Glenn Middle School	Renovate and expand, add new pool, improve traffic flow
Maplewood Middle School	Closes; build new 800-student elementary school on site, then remove old building
Skyview Middle School	Renovate, improve parking lot and traffic flow
Tartan High School	Academic expansion
North High School	Academic expansion
Beaver Lake, Gladstone, Harmony, Next Step	Secure entrances, flexible learning spaces, and modern furniture
Oakdale Elementary	Closes; remove building, add land to Tartan High School
Skyview Elementary	Closes; becomes Skyview Middle School after renovation
Webster Elementary	Closes; repurpose for district programs

Note: Castle and Richardson Elementaries are receiving updates in 2018-19 using existing district funds. The renovations listed above update the rest of the district's schools but require voter-approved funding.

## FINANCE FACTS

- Because we are paying off old debt, we have an opportunity to reinvest in our schools and shape the district for years to come with little additional cost to taxpayers.
- We received the Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Award for timely submission of financial data and accuracy in financial reporting.
- We saved taxpayers more than \$7 million by refinancing bonds over last three years.
- We consistently receive clean financial audits from an independent auditor, which is the best report an organization can receive.
- Bonds vs. levies? Bonds are for buildings and levies are for learning. Bond funds can only be used for construction and renovations. Operating levies are a legally separate funding stream that voters can approve to support classrooms and educational programs. The 2016 referendum that our voters approved was for an operating levy. This 2019 request is for bond funding.

## Strong schools = Strong communities

Research shows that public school quality is one of the most important factors affecting home value. Schools directly affect a community's vitality and home resale values.

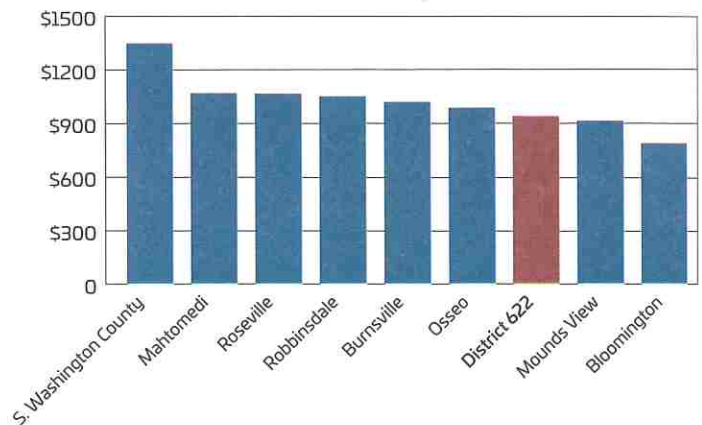


## IF VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE THE REFERENDUM

- Our schools will continue to have safety, security, and traffic flow concerns.
- Students and staff will continue to work in inappropriate, outdated, and unhealthy learning environments.
- We will continue to spend more on operating and transportation costs than if we consolidate and renovate schools.
- Some schools will remain overcrowded.
- We will miss an opportunity to reinvest in schools across the district with a minimal tax increase.
- Construction costs are projected to increase, making any future changes more expensive.

### Total Annual School Property Taxes

District 622 taxes lower than most comparable school districts



Taxes payable 2018 on \$200,000 value home

Source: Pay 18 School Tax Report, Minnesota Department of Education and Ehlers

## VOTING INFORMATION

Polls will be open 7am to 8pm on Tuesday, May 14. Early voting begins March 29. To find your polling location, visit [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org).

## LEARN MORE:

- Visit [www.isd622.org/bond2019](http://www.isd622.org/bond2019)
- Email [communications@isd622.org](mailto:communications@isd622.org)
- Call 651-748-7629



# School District 622

NORTH ST. PAUL | MAPLEWOOD | OAKDALE

*Ready for tomorrow*