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S C H O O L B O N D

I N V E S T I N G I N I N S P I R I N G
O P P O R T U N I T I E S F O R
A L L S T U D E N T S

V O T E F E B R U A R Y 1 4

www.normanpublicschools.org/bond



B O N D B A S I C S

Bond issues are used by a public school district to fund capital improvement projects, instructional materials and transportation needs. These measures are placed on the ballot by school boards to be considered by the voting public.

Bond funds have allowed the Norman Public School District to improve school buildings, invest in school safety and continue to create the best possible learning environments for our students. Since 1972, Norman voters have approved more than \$600 million in school bond funds.

NPS bond issues are steps in a long-term plan to maintain and enhance excellence in educational opportunities.

BOND HISTORY

2009 BOND

Focused primarily on classroom technology, athletic facilities and the addition of a new elementary school.

2014 BOND

Focused primarily on school safety, student technology, athletic and arts facility upgrades, Freshman Academies and College and Career Centers.

2019 BOND

The 2019 bond focused primarily on safety and security. It ensured every school is equipped with a storm shelter, invested further in perimeter security, access control, security technology and more.

It also invested in a new facility for Dimensions Academy, expanded and upgraded the Nancy O'Brian Performing Arts Center and provided many classroom additions, athletics and fine arts facility upgrades, playground upgrades and more.

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P R E P A R A T I O N

In preparation for the 2023 bond proposal, Norman Public Schools undertook an extensive process of research and fact finding to determine the projects that would be included in the proposal. This process consisted of a demographic study, facilities assessments and input from parents, teachers, staff and community stakeholders.

What could the future hold?

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

Our demographic study gathered historical data (birth rates, enrollment, building capacity, etc.), compiled vendor data projections, built maps and studied statistical models to discern trends and make projections. NPS determined that:

- Norman's student growth seems to have plateaued.
- Any projected growth is in northwest and eastern parts of city.

This lack of growth affords us the opportunity to continue investing in safety, security, facility improvements and instructional materials. It will also allow us to continue to optimize operating efficiency.

FACILITY ASSESSMENT

District administrators made visits to every school site and facility to review their physical condition and interview administrative, building and maintenance staffs. This information was used to help identify needs across the district, evaluate cost savings opportunities and prioritize projects.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

To ensure we continue to meet the needs and expectations of our community, the district conducted a survey, inviting all teachers, staff and current parents to participate and answer the question, "With regard to facility improvement projects and instructional technology upgrades, what are some important considerations for us to think about as we make plans for the 2023 bond?" Responses were focused in the areas of: Safety and security, academics, instructional materials, fine arts and athletics.

Respondents



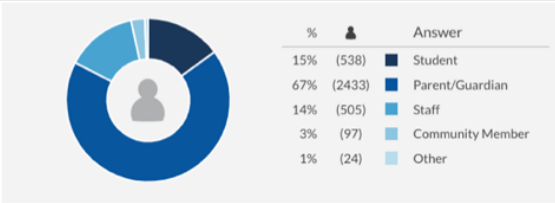
3,597
Participants



2,092
Thoughts



74,693
Ratings



FINANCE

After a thorough needs assessment and community outreach, the district has narrowed the original scope of need down to the proposed bond package. To meet the needs prioritized by the community, teachers and staff, the ballot measure requests voters to consider a total bond of:

\$353.9 million

This bond would not raise the millage rate

The 2023 school bond will have a target millage of 30, which is unchanged from the 2019 bond. Millage is tax rate associated with property tax and community valuation.

F O C U S A R E A S

Based on demographic and facility studies, as well as community input, NPS recommends priority projects in the following areas.

MAINTAIN FACILITIES

- Classroom upgrades
- Roof replacements
- HVAC replacements
- Restroom upgrades
- Furniture upgrades
- Playgrounds
- Painting improvements
- Vehicle access and parking

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- Textbooks
- Instructional technology updates
- Maintain student technology
- Library media materials
- STEAM classrooms

FINE ARTS/ ATHLETICS

- New all-school performance venue
- New competition stadium at NN and upgrade at Harve Collins
- Continued upgrades and improvements to existing athletics and fine arts facilities

TRANSPORTATION

- Construction for Transportation department, including construction of new facility and resurfacing of parking areas

OKLAHOMA AVIATION ACADEMY

- Construction of new facility for the Oklahoma Aviation Academy on the airport at Max Westheimer Airport

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Continued investment in perimeter security, lighting, locks, technology, emergency access and other security upgrades including classroom additions to continue eliminating portables.

F A Q S

What is a school bond issue?

A school bond election is a bond issue used by a public school district to fund capital improvement projects, instructional materials and transportation needs. These measures are placed on the ballot by school boards to be considered by the voting public. School bonds require a supermajority of 60 percent of votes to pass.

When is the school bond election?

The election is Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit NormanPublicSchools.org/bond for voter registration, absentee voting information and more.

What is included in the proposal?

The bond proposal is for \$353.9 million. Among the items in the proposal are a stand-alone facility for the Oklahoma Aviation Academy at Max Westheimer Airport, a new multi-sport athletic stadium at Norman North High School and updates to Harve Collins Stadium at Norman High School, and a new fine arts performance venue, tentatively to be built on the campus of Irving Middle School. A new transportation building for NPS, an animal barn for the district's FFA program and the creation of multi-use spaces in district high schools for esports and other activities also are in the bond proposal. The bond proposal also includes elementary school classroom additions and maintenance, and upgrades for every district school site.

How was the proposal developed?

Projects identified in the school bond proposal were identified as a result of demographic studies, facility assessments and input from parents, teachers, staff and community stakeholders.

Would taxes go up if the bond is approved?

No, approval of the bond would not result in an increase in the millage rate for Norman residents.

Are bond issues cumulative?

Yes. Norman Public School District bond issues are steps in a long-term plan to maintain and enhance excellent educational opportunities. For example, the 2009 bond focused primarily on classroom technology, athletic facilities and the addition of a new elementary school. In 2014, the bond funded secure vestibules at every school, student technology, Freshman Academies and College and Career Centers. The 2019 bond was an investment in a secure future for all students, as additional safety and security projects were funded, Fine Arts facilities enhanced and a facility for students who thrive in alternative education built.

The 2023 bond would be an investment in inspiring opportunities for all students, with projects that include the construction of a new facility for the Oklahoma Aviation Academy, a new all-school performance venue, a new competition stadium at Norman North with upgrades to Harve Collins Stadium and more. In all cases, there are hundreds of additional projects that include upgrades such as new carpet, fresh paint, playground enhancements and more.

Where can I find ballot language?

Visit NormanPublicSchools.org/bond to view all bond details including the bond resolution.

What percentage is required for passage?

School bonds require a supermajority of 60 percent of votes to pass.

What if I don't have children in your schools?

If you have ever had kids in school or were a public school student yourself, people before you helped to fund the schools you and/or your child(ren) attended. Similarly, current Norman residents help pay for the schools we have now and improve in the future throughout the time they live here. As new residents move into the district's attendance area, they assume these taxes as well.

Regardless of where you live in Oklahoma, your property taxes will help fund schools in that area. School facilities are a hub of Norman and are often open to all residents for academic, fine arts programs, athletic events, community meetings and other events that bring the entire community together.

Also, an educated community is a thriving community. Great schools increase property values and safe schools help ensure safe neighborhoods. Young people are our future workforce, homeowners and taxpayers. Their education prepares them for that next step into adulthood, and the stronger their foundation the better their outcomes.

Why will there be two propositions on the ballot?

By law, school bonds and school transportation bonds must be listed separately on the ballot. Combined, the 2023 bond proposal calls for \$353.9 million. Proposition 1 includes capital improvements, instructional materials and technology while Proposition 2 includes all transportation projects.

Proposition 1: \$349.8 million (capital improvements, instructional materials and technology)

Proposition 2: \$4.1 million (transportation only)

Will every school benefit?

Yes. If passed, every school site would benefit from improvement projects. Visit NormanPublicSchools.org/bond to view the projects listed by school.

How would the bond address student safety?

This bond would continue to invest in safety features like perimeter security, lighting, locks, technology, emergency access and other security upgrades including classroom additions to continue eliminating the need to portables.

What major fine arts projects will be included?

An all-school performance venue is planned, tentatively to be built on the campus of Irving Middle School. This will provide NPS students with an additional facility available for their performances.

Why make such an investment in the Oklahoma Aviation Academy?

Less than a year after the idea for the OAA was brought to NPS, a freshman class of 80 students who spend half their day at Max Westheimer Airport and the program continues to grow. Oklahoma ranks near the bottom nationally in terms of STEAM education, yet aviation and aerospace are the second largest industry in the state and the fastest growing.

OAA will provide pathways for students to connect directly with higher education, career tech and industry partners in high-demand areas, preparing them for high-paying plentiful careers in the world of STEM. This unique and innovative approach to education is a model for the type of opportunities that can be created for NPS students. NPS will receive matching funds from the state that, along with bond funds, will allow the district to build a stand-alone OAA facility at the airport.

Why does Norman North need its own stadium?

During the past decade, the Putnam City and Edmond school districts have built a combined five new on-campus stadiums and Moore is in the process of building two new on-campus stadiums. When those are completed, that will leave Norman North as one of very few Class 6A schools in the state to not have its own on-campus stadium. Norman North currently shares Harve Collins Stadium with Norman High School, where the facility is located. A new facility will enhance opportunities for students from both high schools and across the district.

How would the bond impact the classroom?

In addition to roof repairs, furniture upgrades and improvements to heating and cooling systems, several schools would receive additional classrooms. The bond would also allow the district to purchase textbooks, library media materials and instructional technology, while also allowing the district to maintain the iTech program with additional student devices.

Will teachers receive a salary increase because of the bond?

No. State law prohibits money generated by a bond proposal to be used for salaries or operational costs, such as those for utilities or fuel.

The most up-to-date information, conceptual renderings, FAQs and more can be found at normanpublicschools.org/bond.



Scan for the latest information about
the 2023 school bond, including
renderings, project lists and more.