

Room to LEARN ▶ Room to GROW

Worthington
School District 518

FAST FACTS

2018 School Bond Referendum

INFORMATIONAL GUIDE ▶ VOTE FEBRUARY 13

YOU RESPONDED.
WE LISTENED.

A NEW PLAN >> What is Different?

The district surveyed the community after the 2016 election. We appreciate your feedback and designed a new plan that is a stream-lined and cost-effective version of the last election. This project is different than the 2016 proposal — **it is \$10 million less and does not include a stadium, athletic fields, or other expenses.** And classroom and core space reconfigurations and changes will be handled by the District without impacting the referendum.

ROOM TO LEARN.

After the 2016 referendum failed, the facilities committee took community input and once again reviewed numerous options trying to find the most cost-effective solution to solve our space shortages from our rapid and consistent enrollment growth. We knew we needed a plan that would address the need at all grade levels for all schools. **The new one-question \$68.5 million referendum on February 13, 2018 does this by funding the following:**

- > Construct a new High School for grades 9-12 on district-owned 155-acre site south of the existing Middle School.
- > Reconfigure the current High School facility for use as a Middle School for grades 6-8.
- > Reconfigure the current Middle School to serve as an Intermediate School for grades 3-5.
- > Reconfigure the current Prairie Elementary School to serve PK-2 programming.
- > Discontinue use of the original West Learning Center Facility due to its age and need for extensive costly repairs and upgrades to meet current code and facility requirements.

*see the options on our website at www.isd518.net

ROOM TO GROW.

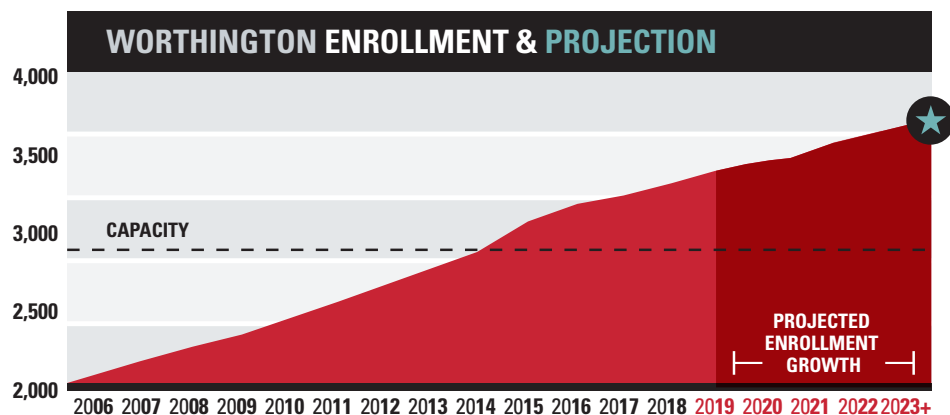
The new plan with its proposed improvements and additional space is designed to accommodate enrollment growth at **all grade levels.** It will allow us to continue to provide excellent educational programs and community access to our sites and facilities for many years to come.

“Community members asked to have numerous options evaluated. We asked our architects, Wold Engineering, a highly respected school architectural firm, to provide us with cost estimates on every imaginable, realistic alternative, and then explored the benefits of each. The resulting project costs \$10 million less and is the most cost-effective.” **Lori Dudley, School Board Chair**

WHY NOW?

THE NEEDS ARE REAL AND ARE NOT GOING AWAY.

Since Nov. 2016, our enrollment has grown – we now have **1,100 students (an average of 4 classrooms per year) more than we did just ten years ago.** Our schools are filled to the brim: current 2017-2018 enrollment is 3,209 while building design capacity is 2,975 and we are projected to continue to grow!



WHAT WAS THE PROCESS?

After the 2016 bond failed, we sought community input by getting help from community members to evaluate options that would address the problem. We held public forums, listening sessions, and surveyed community members to learn about community objections to the last referendum. Focus groups and multiple public meetings solicited community input to determine the best solutions. In this way, the community helped the facilities committee and school board select the most cost-effective solution.

THE SURVEY SAYS

87% RATE THE QUALITY
of education provided by the Worthington Public Schools as either "excellent" or "good."

80% BELIEVE
our community receives a good value from its investment in local public schools.

76% AGREE
the district does a good job of involving community in decisions about our schools.

77% SUPPORT
safety and security improvements at all district schools.

WHAT WILL IT COST ME?

If approved, owners of an average **\$115,000 Worthington-area home** will see a **property tax increase of about \$12.32 per month.**

\$12.32
PER MONTH

on an average \$115,000 home

RESIDENTIAL REFERENDUM TAX IMPACT (INCREASE)

HOME VALUE	ANNUAL	MONTHLY
\$75,000.00	\$75.52	\$6.29
\$115,000.00	\$147.86	\$12.32
\$175,000.00	\$257.62	\$21.47

\$115,000 is the average home value in the city of Worthington

*Source: Nobles County

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR TAX RELIEF >> Tax Credit for Agricultural Landowners

The new School Building Bond Agricultural Credit (AG2School) means **40% of the cost of existing, proposed, and future construction bond issues** on agricultural land will be paid for by the State of Minnesota, with the balance of the cost to be assessed to property under the existing formula. Dwelling value of homestead agricultural property (house, garage and 1 acre) does not qualify for the credit.

“ It is important to note that the Ag2School tax credit is permanent law in Minnesota – it has no automatic sunset date. It would take specific legislative action, and the governor’s approval, to revoke this tax credit. ” **Senator Bill Weber (R)**

40%
AG2SCHOOL
TAX
CREDIT

Owners of homesteaded property with incomes under \$108,660 may be eligible for the MN Property Tax Refund. You may qualify for other tax relief programs, see our website for information: www.isd518.net

WHERE & WHEN DO I VOTE?

Vote Tues., February 13
Poll is open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Lakeside Church, 1000 Linda Lane, Worthington

Early voting/absentee ballots are available beginning December 29. Contact Nobles County Auditor/Treasurer, Beth Van Hove at 507-295-5258 or bvanhove@co.nobles.mn.us for information.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
Visit: www.ISD518.net > Facebook: www.facebook.com/ISD518
Call the district offices at: 507.372.2172 or email: info@isd518.net

