



May 3, 2022 Bond Proposal FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What school issue is on the May 3, 2022 ballot?

On **May 3, 2022**, voters in Concord Community Schools will be asked to consider a bond proposal to implement renovations to the Elementary/Middle School and High School, playground upgrades, and a new The Hive of Innovation & Creativity. The total amount of this bond proposal is \$9.5 million which represents an expected **ZERO mill increase** to the current bond millage rate of 4.4 mills.

2. How was this plan developed?

- In April 2021, the team reevaluated our facilities plan to identify major issues not addressed in the 2017 bond.
- In August 2021, the Bond Steering Committee was formed with the charge of creating a vision for facilities that would maximize operational efficiencies, preserve building infrastructure, and support a culture of academic excellence and success for all students.
- The BSC consisted of parents, community members, business owners, village representatives, staff, and administrators. They learned about the state of our current facilities and programs, the way that learning environments can enhance student performance, and school funding. After a thorough understanding of the District's situation and prioritizing goals and objectives for our facilities of the future, they reviewed and analyzed various concepts to bring us in line with that vision.
- To refine our direction and ultimate recommendation for Board review, they invited community members, staff, parents, and students to provide their input through a Community Engagement meeting.
- On November 22, 2021, the BSC presented its findings and recommendation to the Board of Education, who voted to move forward with a May 3, 2022 bond election in the amount of \$9,500,000 which represents an expected **ZERO mill increase** to the current bond millage rate of 4.4 mills.

3. Is there a long-term facilities plan in place that takes into account the 2017 Bond Proposal, the 2022 Bond Proposal, and future facility needs?

In 2017 Concord community supported a \$5M bond issue to take care of infrastructure and program needs identified in a buildings assessment. As part of a comprehensive long term strategic plan, the District addressed most of the high school building needs and the critical needs for the ES/MS building.

The Board is committed to complete the work initiated back then by upgrading our elementary/middle school and providing a new building for all grade levels dedicated to STEM and robotics programs, The Hive of Innovation and Creativity.

Furthermore, the Board is also committed to keeping tax rates where they are if this bond passes. In 2021, we have existing debt that has been paid off and any additional improvements would be made without expecting to raise taxes. With this long-term approach to our facility needs, the Board has committed to keep our facilities in good shape, while being sensitive to taxpayers.

4. What are the specific features of the May 3, 2022 bond proposal at each school?

Concord Elementary / Middle School

- Remodel classrooms
- Remodel media center
- Remodel gymnasium and stage
- Remodel the Administration Building
- Remodel science labs
- Remodel cafeteria
- New playground equipment

The Hive of Innovation & Creativity

- New center for multi-grade-level STEM programs
- New flexible furniture
- New instructional technology

Concord High School

- Remodel science lab
- Replace casework
- Continue the flexible furniture projects
- Continue the parking lots and driveways replacement

5. Is there a project timeline?

The following project timeline is only a **projection**. Dates and project order may be revised based on several factors including things such as: market conditions, student impact, weather, product availability and school calendar.

The design process for the main projects would begin right after the bond passes and would take eight months for the first ones to be completed. Construction would start in 2023 and would last until 2026. Some small projects, like new furniture could be addressed before the end of 2022.

6. How would Bond 2022 impact our learning environments for teachers and students?

Research has shown that with proper environmental conditions, students focus and attention increase. In addition, the modernized science labs, STEM lab, classrooms spaces, study areas, and media center would support our goals of improving achievement and leveling the playing field for our students by enabling our staff and students to engage in high levels of instructional delivery, research and collaboration, information access and project based instruction.

7. What is the plan to keep facility improvement disruptions to a minimum?

Work at our school buildings would be scheduled in a way that would limit interference with day-to-day operations or community safety. The majority of construction work would be completed during the summer months. When ongoing work would occur during school days, there would be a clear separation between construction and school operations. Safety is a paramount concern and would be the key factor in determining the construction sequencing.

8. How are neighboring districts addressing the aging condition of their school buildings?

Neighboring districts have experienced the same issue of continually aging buildings. Bond programs have been approved and implemented all around us, including Jackson Public Schools, Hanover Horton Schools, and Homer Community School District. In today’s competitive environment, districts seek every advantage to recruit and retain students.

9. Why is it important to attract and retain students in the District?

Public schools in Michigan receive operating funds on a per-pupil basis. Attracting and retaining students plays a major role in keeping CCS’s operating budget stable. The quality of our programs and facilities plays a role in both of these areas. If approved by the voters, the bond program would upgrade facilities to support updated teaching methods, improve operational efficiencies in our facilities, provide progressive learning environments, and protect and maintain the community’s past investment in our school buildings. Parents have choices regarding where their children will receive an education. It is the intent of the Board of Education and the District to maintain its reputation for providing quality programs and facilities in order to attract and retain students.

10. What is the estimated cost breakdown for the bond projects?

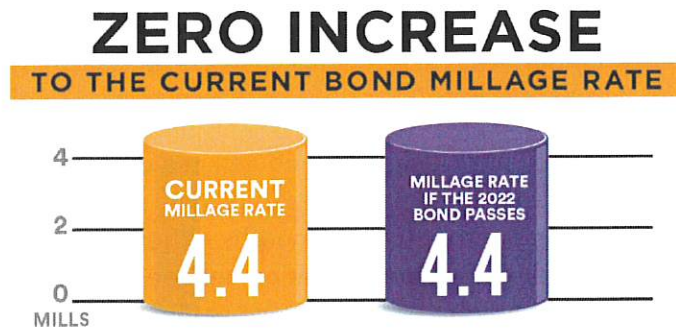
Approximate costs associated with the projects identified in 2022 Bond program are allocated in the following manner:

Building	Estimate of Construction Value
Concord Elementary / Middle School	\$4,413,926
The Hive of Innovation & Creativity	\$3,106,775
Concord High School	\$1,985,574

Interest Earned	(\$6,276)
Total Bond	\$9,500,000

11. How much would the bond proposal cost the average taxpayer?

If voters approve the bond proposal, it is projected that the annual debt millage required to repay the District’s outstanding and proposed bonds will remain at or below the current bond millage rate of 4.4 mills.



12. Can I deduct these property taxes on my income tax return?

Property taxes may be deductible as itemized deductions on your federal income tax return if you itemize. You may also be eligible for the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit on your Michigan Income Tax Return. Please consult with your tax preparer.

13. What exactly is the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit?

The Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit is a method through which some taxpayers can receive a tax credit for an amount of their property tax that exceeds a certain percentage of their household income. This program establishes categories under which homeowners or renters are eligible for a homestead property tax credit. Please consult with your tax preparer to determine if you are eligible for this important and valuable tax credit.

14. Could money from the bond program be used to pay for salaries and benefits?

No, that is against State law. Bond dollars cannot be used for operational expenses such as employee salaries, upgrades, facility maintenance, or energy costs. Bond program funds must be accounted for separately from general operating funds. Bond funds are also subject to audit.

15. Please explain what bond program money can cover and what it cannot.

Bond proceeds **cannot** be used for the following items:

- Salaries and wages
- General operating expenses and maintenance
- Classroom supplies and textbooks

Bond proceeds **can** be used for the following items:

- Construction and remodeling of facilities
- Purchase of instructional technology equipment
- Equipment and furniture
- Site improvements

16. What are the key dates leading up to the May 3rd vote?

Voter registration procedures have changed since 2018.

March 24, 2022 – Absent voter ballots must be available for issuance to voters.

April 18, 2022 – Last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk for the May election.

April 29, 2022 up to 5pm – Deadline for electors to obtain an absent voter ballot via First Class mail.

May 2, 2022 up to 4pm – Deadline for voters to obtain an absent voter ballot in person in clerk's office.

May 3, 2022 up to 8pm – Election Day registrants may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot in person in the township clerk's office or vote in person in the proper precinct.

17. If I cannot make it to the polls on May 3, 2022 what are my options for absentee voting?

The deadline to request an absentee ballot via First Class Mail is Friday, April 29, at 5 p.m., and voters may also obtain an absent voter ballot in person up to 8pm on Tuesday, May 3. The deadline to return a completed absentee ballot is Tuesday, May 3, at 8 p.m.

If you did not receive your absentee ballot application they are available:

- On-line at www.michigan.gov/vote
- At the Township Clerk's office

Note: Once election ballots are available in the clerk's office, you can walk into your clerk's office, receive an absentee application, fill it out, and immediately be given your ballot to cast your vote. Please check with your clerk's office hours and if drop boxes are available.

18. Who may I contact if I have additional questions?

Ms. Rebecca Hutchinson, Superintendent
517-524-8850 | rebecca.hutchinson@concordschools.net

19. Where do I vote?

Concord Township – Concord Community Center, 310 Homer Street

Parma Township – Parma Township Hall, 2388 Eaton Rapids Road

Pulaski Township – Pulaski Township Hall, 12363 Folks Road

Spring Arbor Township –

Precinct 1 - Spring Arbor Senior Center 122 Star Street

Precinct 2 - Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church 120 E. Main Street

Hanover Township – Hanover Township Hall, 311 Farview Street

20. How will the bond proposal appear on the ballot?

CONCORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Concord Community Schools, Jackson County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$9,500,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing and equipping a multi-grade-level STEM facility; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring, installing and equipping the multi-grade-level STEM facility for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping playgrounds and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2022, under current law, is 2.52 mills (\$2.52 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0 mill net increase over the prior year’s levy. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty (20) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.88 mills (\$2.88 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$4,840,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)