



# TOP 10 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Schoolcraft Community Schools Facilities Plan & Bond Proposal

### Q1. Why must we invest so much money in our schools?

- How students learn in school today is very different from how they learned years ago.
- Technology, teaching, classroom size and design of learning spaces are all different.
- Our elementary and middle school buildings are more than 50 years old—too old, inefficient and not designed to meet our children's current and future learning needs.
- Well-designed, high-performing, secure schools are crucial to keeping students and families in the District, attracting new business investment and growing our local tax base.

### Q2. Five years ago, you asked for \$14 million to upgrade the current buildings. Voters said “no.” Why are you asking for so much more now?

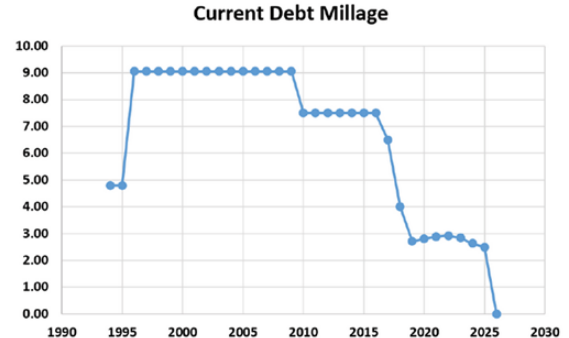
- That request was aimed at addressing urgent, immediate needs.
- We addressed some of those needs through our general fund—meaning less money has gone to educational programs.
- Five years later, our buildings are older, our students' educational needs are changing, and we don't have the facilities we need for the long term.

### Q3. Can't we just renovate the current buildings?

- We looked at this and found the cost to renovate is nearly the same as new construction.
- Renovating would limit design for the long term and still leave us with outdated buildings.
- Renovating instead of building/designing for the long term wouldn't be a good investment.

### Q4. What would be the new debt millage rate if the bond is approved by voters?

- The rate would be 7.5 mills.
- For comparison (from michigan.gov): Nearby schools at or above 7.5 mills include Lawton (9.1), Parchment (9.01), Gobles (9.0), Sturgis (7.99), Paw Paw (8.2), Mendon (8.0), Bloomingdale (7.7), and Otsego (7.5).



Estimated millage increase of **3.5 mills** would raise  
**\$39.9 million** = total debt mills of 7.5.

### Q5. Why do you propose a PreK-6th & 7th-12th configuration?

- Allows us the most flexibility to design for today's and tomorrow's learning needs.
- More learning opportunities for 7th-8th graders with controlled access to high school resources.
- Lowers operating costs by consolidating to a single, two-building campus.
- Enhanced security and better control access to buildings.
- Better designed traffic flow for safety and efficiency.
- Dedicated wing for 7th-8th graders gives them their own space.

### Q6. Would a two-building campus mean more students per teacher?

- Our goal is to design buildings and learning spaces so we can maintain and even reduce the per-pupil allotment.
- That's better for students, for teachers and for academic achievement.

*More FAQs on reverse side →*

Questions or feedback:  
More information online:

Email [facilities@schoolcraftcs.org](mailto:facilities@schoolcraftcs.org) or call (269) 488-7305  
<https://goo.gl/nNwWMC>

**Q7. Where can I see the specific designs for the new buildings? Where can I see the specific improvements planned for athletics?**

- It's very early in the process. Specific designs will be developed only if a bond is approved (the cost of design will be built into the bond). The Board plans to involve community members, parents and staff in the design process to ensure Schoolcraft Community Schools, and the community, get the best buildings possible for the community's dollars. The conceptual plan we're discussing today helps provide important information for making a decision about the bond.
- Here's what we've done or are doing now:
- Basic concepts for the buildings—PreK through 6th, and a dedicated wing on the high school for 7th-8th.

**Q8. I'm concerned about mixing middle- and high-school students in the same building. How will you address this concern?**

- 7th-8th graders will be in a separate wing—almost like having their own building.
- Access will be limited and carefully monitored. Our approach is: The two student bodies should be separate and distinct, with interaction happening only for fully supervised academic reasons.

**Q9. How does a bond proposal work?**

- A bond proposal asks voters to approve the sale of bonds and ultimately pay off those bonds to provide funds for building improvements, new construction, and equipment purchases.
- If approved, this current bond proposal would be paid off in 29¾ years.

**Q10. Will any money from the bond proposal be used for salaries or day-to-day operations?**

- No. Day-to-day costs, including salaries, benefits, supplies, maintenance and utilities, come out of our general fund. We aren't allowed to use bond money for these things.

ESTIMATED IMPACT OF BONDING ON INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS											
Est. Debt Millage Increase	Market Value of Home										
	\$50K	\$70K	\$100K	\$120K	\$150K	\$191K	\$250K	\$300K	\$350K	\$400K	\$500K
3.50	\$88	\$123	\$175	\$210	\$263	\$335	\$438	\$525	\$613	\$700	\$875

*\*Dollar values are rounded up to the nearest dollar*

**TIMELINE**

