



## Look for upcoming survey on potential referendum



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for more info  
on our facilities  
planning

### Watch Your Mailbox!

At the end of April, you will receive a survey about a potential November 2024 referendum. The survey will identify needed projects at all four buildings. Please complete the survey before it closes on May 15 to ensure your voice is heard!

### Did You Know?

The state imposes “revenue limits,” which dictate how much money districts can spend on day-to-day operations. No funding is included for major facilities needs such as renovations/additions or the maintenance of large items (roofing, HVAC equipment, etc.). Any funding needed over the revenue limit is expected to be derived from referendums; it is up to local taxpayers to fund their schools’ major facilities needs.

### How Did We Get Here?

In 2017, an outside firm conducted a thorough assessment of our buildings and grounds, which formed the basis for our long-range facility master planning. The successful 2018 referendum was only the first phase of implementation, and many needs remain throughout our aging buildings. Over the past six years, the district has invested \$5.3M in operational dollars to maintain our buildings and address priority projects. However, many of the needs are too costly to be addressed through the district’s operational dollars and require funding through a capital (facilities) referendum. The district established a Citizens Advisory Committee, sent a community survey, consulted with staff, held building tours, and conducted community focus groups. All of those efforts have led us to the upcoming survey.

**LEARN MORE** 

# Why Now?

## Strong Financial Position

The district continues to be fiscally responsible and has been able to pay off our 2018 referendum debt 14 years earlier than planned, saving taxpayers \$2.6M in interest costs. During that same time period, the mill rate has continued to decline. This financial position makes the timing right to consider undertaking significant projects to address our facilities needs, while keeping the mill rate close to our current mill rate. If we do not address the needs now, we will spend millions more in future years, due to inflation.

## Aging Buildings

Our buildings are aging, with many portions being 50-years-old or more. Numerous spaces and systems require updates due to age, changes in educational delivery, or both.

- Some school restrooms do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Single-pane windows and exterior walls at the high school are not energy-efficient.
- Generators in each building are too small and outdated.
- Mechanical systems (including boilers, chillers, and air handling units) are outdated.
- The high school science wing was built in 1967, and the layout creates teaching and learning challenges as well as safety concerns.
- The high school gym bleachers are aging, not ADA compliant, expensive to maintain, and create safety concerns.
- High school kitchen equipment is from the 1950s and is failing.
- The high school auditorium has torn curtains, aging sound and lighting, and lacks ADA access to the stage. HVAC equipment in the auditorium is from 1966.
- High school locker rooms date to the 1960s, have poor ventilation, and have a configuration that does not allow for adequate supervision.
- Edgerton's K4 and K5 classrooms lack sufficient educational space and are much smaller in comparison to the Hales Corners Elementary spaces added in 2018.
- Edgerton's gym and cafeteria share a space, which creates scheduling conflicts, requires daily setup and take down of tables, and does not allow the entire school to assemble.
- Sections of Hales Corners Elementary that date to the 1950s do not have air conditioning.
- Single-pane windows and exterior walls are failing in the 1950 wings of Hales Corners Elementary and need to be replaced.
- All buildings have 30+ year old roof sections that need replacing.

## The Pool

The Whitnall High School pool structure is failing. As part of the 2018 referendum, the community approved the short-term solution of replacing the pool liner. Now, that liner is nearing the end of its service life and could fail at any time. When the liner fails, Whitnall will no longer have a pool.



If you have questions about the survey or the potential referendum, please contact the district office at **414.525.8414**



Whitnall School District