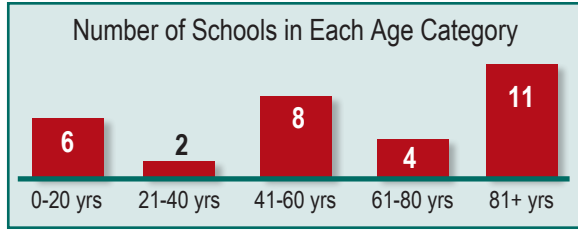


# Why Now? 2013 S.M.A.R.T. School BOND

The District has a long history of providing students with a safe learning environment. In today's world we must explore new ways to keep our schools safe. District-wide enhancements to security systems will help to ensure the continued safety of all students.



Due to aging district facilities, improvements are required to maintain safe, energy efficient schools. With decreasing state funding, the District currently spends reactively to correct emergency issues. By funding improvements and bus purchases with bond proceeds, we eliminate the use of general fund dollars for these upgrades and gain operating efficiencies.

Technology is a required tool used by teachers at all grade levels. The last major investment in technology was in 2002, and the District is now at a point where existing hardware needs to be updated. Our investment in 21st Century teaching and learning will not only prepare the District to meet new state testing requirements but also will prepare our students with the skills demanded by universities and employers.

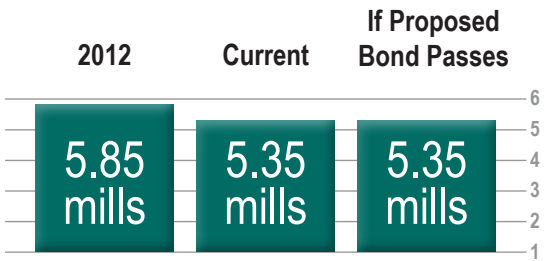


The average useful life of a bus is 10 years. Our current bus fleet has an average age of nine years, and no new buses have been purchased in four years. To ensure the continued safety of all students, the proposed bond will replace our aging bus fleet. The buses slated for replacement have reached the point where increased maintenance and downtime have created added expense.



Since 2000, the District has grown by 2,060 students. The S.M.A.R.T. School Bond will provide space to accommodate this growth through additions and renovations at specific sites.

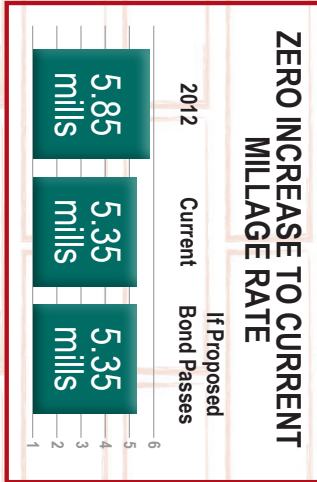
## ZERO INCREASE TO CURRENT MILLAGE RATE



### Why won't this proposal increase the millage rate?

One factor that impacts the millage rate is the paying down of existing debt. Some of the District's debt, created by the sale of bonds several years ago, is now being paid off. The new \$76 million S.M.A.R.T. School Bond will replace the debt that is being paid off, resulting in the millage rate remaining at the same 5.35 mills.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
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Greetings,

On November 5th, you will be asked to consider several important ballot questions including Mayor, City Council, and the Dearborn Public Schools \$76 million S.M.A.R.T. School Bond.

The Board of Education is constantly working to be a good agent of the taxpayers' dollars by taking such actions as refinancing existing bond debt to save over \$1 million in interest payments. The Board knows the significance of holding the S.M.A.R.T. School Bond election at a time when the current mill rate of 5.35 will remain unchanged.

It has been more than ten years since the School District placed a bond proposal on the ballot. That proposal addressed overcrowded schools and technology needs. Since then, our nation has witnessed tragic events in schools across the country, added more than 1,800 students to our own classrooms, and actively taken part in the integration of technology as a tool for learning. At the same time, the District has experienced reductions in funding from the State and an increase in the demands placed on our buildings.

Despite these challenges, our students continue to perform in the classroom. Last year, graduation rates increased by more than 6%. This past spring, the District received full accreditation from AdvancED, one of the oldest and largest accreditation institutions in the country.

The S.M.A.R.T. School Bond will provide the funding to address security, aging inventory of buildings, computers, and buses, while our staff continues to focus their attention on offering the services and programs that have helped us make gains in the classroom.

Please remember to look for the Dearborn Public Schools S.M.A.R.T. School Bond on the November 5 ballot.

Regards,

Brian J. Whiston,  
Superintendent



# S Security

Safety and security will be upgraded and enhanced at every school. Supervision and control of building access will be enhanced with video cameras, electronic locking systems and direct proximity of the main office to a controlled main entrance point at each school building.



## Good Stewards of Taxpayers' Dollars

Dearborn Public Schools' last bond, for \$150 million, was approved by voters in 2002 over 11 years ago. It addressed overcrowding in our buildings and the technology needs at that point in time. The District was able to refinance the current bond debt, which resulted in a \$1,000,000 savings to taxpayers. In a recent study conducted by Plante Moran, it was reported that the District was efficiently using resources. Dearborn Public Schools holds a very strong AA3 - Moody's bond rating.

# M Modifications

Dearborn Public Schools operates 35 facilities. The average age of our facilities is 58 years, with 21 of those facilities over 50 years old. Modifications to our facilities are necessary in the areas of roofs, sites, windows, furniture, equipment, lockers and flooring. Every facility will receive modifications to ensure the safety, accessibility, health and suitability of all learning environments for our students and maximize the useful life of our buildings.

## All Schools Will Benefit

All schools will benefit from the S.M.A.R.T. School Bond. Facilities will see new security systems on the main doors, technology upgrades and wireless access, and a project that will provide some level of improvement to the physical building. In addition, if your child rides a bus to school each day, participates in athletic events, or takes part in a field trip, the purchase of thirty new buses will make their school experience safer.



# A Additions

Additions are necessary at the following facilities to accommodate our student enrollment growth of 2,060 students since 2000 and to allow curriculum flexibility:

- **Geer Park Elementary**  
6 classroom additions and gymnasium addition
- **Henry Ford Elementary**  
Major restoration of classrooms and ancillary areas in original building
- **River Oaks Elementary**  
6 classroom additions and gymnasium addition
- **William Ford Elementary**  
6 classroom additions
- **Bryant Middle School**  
Science room addition and corridor link
- **Woodworth Middle School**  
Cafeteria/multi-use space and kitchen addition



# R Renovations

Infrastructure modifications are planned at all facilities, with some locations requiring more significant renovation to respond to program needs. The following are some of the major remodeling plans.

- **Snow Elementary** - Remodel existing locker rooms to science labs and exterior corridor enclosure
- **Maple Elementary** - Pool remodeling new flooring in several rooms including the multi-purpose room, replace and add lockers
- **Bryant Middle School** - Auditorium ceiling remodeling
- **Smith Middle School** - Auditorium remodeling
- **Henry Ford Elementary** - Pool remodeling, window replacement, corridor and stairwell remodeling, classroom electrical upgrades
- **Whitmore-Bolles Elementary** - Relocation/remodeling of main office for security
- **Dearborn High School** - New air conditioning in auditorium, vocal, and instrumental rooms, auditorium sound system, and door replacements
- **Edsel Ford High School** - Selective air conditioning replacement, athletic field team room
- **Fordson High School** - Selective air conditioning and lighting replacement, athletic field team room

# T Technology & Transportation

## Technology

In order for our students to interact and compete in a global environment, it is critical for them to have up-to-date technology tools to facilitate learning. In addition, on-line testing requirements by the State impact our goals and needs for technology in the future. S.M.A.R.T. School Bond technology upgrades include:

- 7,000 new computers (3,500 every 5 years)
- Upgrades to equipment and licenses
- District-wide wireless access

## Transportation

Transportation is another important area that is impacted by the S.M.A.R.T. School Bond. Thirty new buses will be purchased to replace our aging fleet. We are not increasing student bussing but responding to the need to keep our bus fleet safe and in good working condition.



## Zero Tax Increase

