

# FAQ

## 1. What has taken place since the 2009 plans were developed?

- In 2019 the HPS School Board and facility consultants conducted a District-wide assessment and capital maintenance analysis of all facilities.
- In 2023, a community committee made up of parents, staff, District leadership, and community members took part in planning workshops to help the Board with the current and future planning of Harvey Public Schools. In January 2024, a District-wide survey was completed to gather valuable feedback to assist the Board in planning for the future and to consider building solutions that meet district needs and are financially responsible.
- The data from the District-wide survey showed 64% support of building a K-12 Campus.
- In February 2024, the District called for a \$23.5M referendum vote to be held on April 18th.

## 2. What is the debt limit of Harvey Public Schools?

Harvey Public School District currently has a debt limit of \$25,023,441. This means that the District cannot approve a project exceeding this limit.

## 3. What are the options for additional funding?

The school district is working towards submitting for state and federal grants as well as applying for the ND School Construction Loan Fund, which would provide access to a 2% loan from the Bank of North Dakota. In addition, the school district will be seeking to engage local entities for penitential partnerships that could provide additional funding. Even with these combined efforts a referendum is still needed as it is the only mechanism the district has to fully fund a project.

## 4. Can an addition be located to the north, east, or west of the school?

Yes, the addition has the possibility of being located on any side of the school. All options would be explored to determine what positioning would be best.

## 5. What would happen to the elementary school if we were to construct an elementary addition to the current high school?

As a district, we would study the best use for the elementary school and the community. We would have community input and consider this a separate project from the current one. We look forward to supporting our community with each project our school district undertakes.

## 6. Has the cost of demolishing/(other options) the elementary school been factored into the estimated cost?

No, the best use for the current elementary building has yet to be determined by the community and district.

## 7. Why can't we update the Elementary school through small projects over time?

Due to the American Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, any significant changes to the structure would cause all code violations to be addressed.

## 8. Why can't we build an addition to the elementary school, utilizing some of the existing structure there?

The District and School Board have followed the data from the community survey which strongly favored an addition to the high school. An addition to BM Hanson Elementary School would displace students for two years during construction. A single building K-12 School creates space, staff, and utilities efficiencies.

## 9. Would students and staff be displaced if the project is approved?

No, the construction of either option would not displace staff and students.

## 10. What are the ADA code issues at each school?

Some ADA Code Compliance issues include fire suppression systems, safety & security, building materials, and building accessibility. For more information, please see the Facility Assessment.

## 11. How many elementary classrooms would there be in the addition? Would there be enough classrooms for elementary students in the addition?

The District would engage Harvey staff, teachers, and community members in planning the addition to ensure it fits the needs of all stakeholders.



**12. Is it possible to raise funds for a larger gym?**

In the event the school district supports a building referendum, private funds can be raised in addition to the current building format to expand any areas donors want to prioritize, which could include increasing the size of the gym.

**13. Would there be space for a playground if an addition to the high school was pursued?**

Yes, the location of the addition is still to be determined and the playground is an integral part of the overall site plan.

**14. How many years would it take to pay back the bonds if a referendum were held and a vote passed?**

School referendum bonds are typically financed for 20 years. The amount listed would be the tax impact in the first year. We cannot guarantee that the tax base will increase, but if the District continues to grow, it will cause the fixed tax burden of the referendum to be spread between more property owners, which would lower the tax impact for individuals.

**15. Can the current mechanical, electrical, and heating systems support an addition to the high school?**

No, it cannot. The project's cost would include required building systems to support the new space.

**16. What are the cost savings of creating a single-building k-12 school?**

While HPS hopes to keep as many staff as possible if students are combined into a single-building k-12 school, operational services will be reevaluated and adjusted according to the needs presented after the building is complete. It has been estimated that cost savings could potentially be 25% through heating efficiencies, loss of overtime labor, shared spaces, and increased efficiencies in operations.

**17. What do Safety and Security Upgrades entail?**

A physical secure entrance would be constructed to allow office staff control of access to a secure vestibule and then to the school itself.

**18. How is an accurate cost estimate generated for these projects?**

The current estimate is based on current market data and past projects.

**19. Why didn't I receive a survey?**

The District mailed the survey out to 1,923 households through the US Postal Service and School Perceptions (a third-party survey company), as well as emailed it to our entire PowerSchool parent list, and staff emails. Unfortunately, some District residents are reporting they did not receive the survey to express their opinion. Please mark your calendars for April 18th and make plans to go to the polls from 7 am to 7 pm to make your voice heard.

**20. Who can vote?**

Citizens who live within the school district may vote.

**21. How do I calculate my tax impact?**

Please visit [designwithicon.com/harvey](http://designwithicon.com/harvey) to calculate your estimated tax impact.

**22. How many years will it take to pay back the bonds?**

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**23. Why hasn't a final design been completed?**

Renovation/new build is a moving target. If the referendum passes a full design process will begin and all feasible options will be explored.

**24. Why is the cost of this project so much higher than the Silver Ranch Elementary School in Bismarck?**

The Silver Ranch Elementary School project was bid out prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the inflationary surge in 2020-2022. Additionally, the construction market in Bismarck is much more inexpensive than in the Harvey area.

**25. Who can I contact if I have questions?**

Please contact Supt. Lukens. [robertl@harveys.com](mailto:robertl@harveys.com) 701-324-2267



For more information, visit [designwithicon.com/harvey](http://designwithicon.com/harvey) or scan the provided **QR code**.