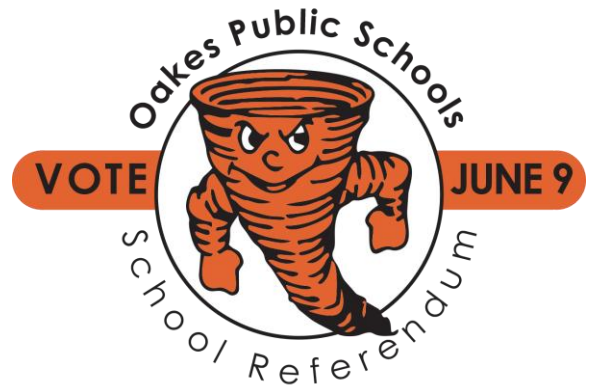


WHY NOW?



For more than **100 years**, Oakes Public Schools has served generations of students and families. The original high school building opened in **1920**, and over time the facility has expanded to meet the needs of the community.

Today, however, several important building systems have reached the **end of their useful life**, creating challenges that affect daily school operations, safety, and efficiency.

To better understand these issues and identify possible solutions, the district began a **facility evaluation process in 2025**.

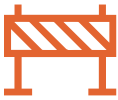


A Community-Driven Process

The district worked with community members and outside experts to carefully review the condition of school facilities and identify priorities.

- Engaging **ICON Architectural Group** to help assess aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance.
- Creating a **Community Task Force** to review facility conditions and discuss priorities.
- Working with **engineering and facility experts** to evaluate building systems and infrastructure.
- Hosting **community discussions and meetings** to gather feedback and guide decision-making.

Through this process, the district and community worked together to develop a **focused plan addressing the most urgent facility needs**.



Key Facility Challenges

The facility study identified several significant issues within the school building.

Aging HVAC System

The high school heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) system has **reached the end of its expected life and is becoming unreliable**.

An updated system would:

- Improve indoor comfort for students and staff
- Improve air quality and ventilation
- Increase efficiency and reliability

Undersized Elementary Kitchen

The elementary kitchen is **original to the building and too small for current needs**, making it difficult to efficiently prepare and serve meals.

Remodeling and expanding the kitchen would:

- Improve food preparation and serving efficiency
- Better support student nutrition programs
- Improve working conditions for staff



A Focused Plan

After reviewing the facility conditions and gathering community input, the Community Task Force identified a **\$6.3 million base plan** designed to address the most immediate needs.

The plan focuses on:

- ✓ Replacing the **high school HVAC system**
- ✓ Remodeling and expanding the **elementary school kitchen**

This targeted approach allows the district to address the **most critical infrastructure issues first** while keeping the overall project cost more manageable.



Planning for the Future

Oakes Public Schools plays an important role in the community by supporting students, families, and local pride.

Addressing critical facility needs today helps ensure the district can continue to provide:

- Safe learning environments
- Reliable building systems
- Efficient school operations
- Quality educational spaces for future generations

The goal of this plan is simple:

Address urgent facility needs today so Oakes Public Schools can continue serving students and the community for years to come.



Residents are encouraged to contact the Oakes Public School District office with questions regarding the referendum or facility needs.