

REFERENDUM INFORMATION



Images in this publication were taken prior to COVID protocols.

What Will be on the April 6 Ballot?

Question 1 asks for authorization to exceed the revenue limit by \$2,000,000 per year for five years, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year and ending with the 2025-2026 school year for technology and curriculum updates.

Question 2 asks for authorization to borrow \$34,000,000 for a District-wide school building and facility improvement project, including:

- Construction of secure entrances at all schools
- Lincoln High School science lab renovations and an addition for a new library/student resource center
- Construction of a gymnasium at THINK Academy (Rudolph Elementary)
- Capital maintenance and building infrastructure improvements

Why Two Questions?

The two questions on the April 6 ballot use two different funding sources. According to state law, authority to exceed the revenue limit for operations (Question 1) and borrowing money for a capital referendum (Question 2) cannot be combined; voters must respond to each question independently.



At **Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools** (WRPS) our mission is to provide the best education for every student, enabling each to be a thoughtful, responsible contributor to a changing world.

To maintain our continued progress forward, the District must address operational and facility needs that are not going away.

On April 6, District residents will have the opportunity to vote on two referendum questions designed to keep WRPS thriving and adapting by impacting all students and all schools.

The District-wide solution will address:

OPERATIONAL NEEDS



SAFETY & SECURITY



EDUCATIONAL SPACE IMPROVEMENTS



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What are the Needs?

Safety & Security

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority, and we are continuously evaluating current safety recommendations and making improvements. Entrances at all our buildings need to be reconfigured to route all visitors through the main office before gaining access to the rest of the school building.

Educational Space Improvements

Lincoln High School was recently acknowledged for **“Exceeding Expectations”** on the state school accountability report card. We are proud that our students are accomplishing great things in the classrooms. However, some key educational spaces are outdated and undersized.

- Science classrooms and labs originally built in 1979 lack appropriate size, layout, and electrical accommodations to meet today’s educational standards.
- Our traditional library lacks flexibility for hands-on collaboration and suitable technology access.
- THINK Academy (Rudolph Elementary) lacks a dedicated cafeteria and gym. The existing space is undersized for physical education classes, requires daily setup and take-down of cafeteria furniture, and creates scheduling conflicts. The new gym space would also be available for community use.



DID YOU KNOW?

The last WRPS operational referendum was in 2006. Since then, every other district in the Wisconsin Valley Conference has passed an operational referendum.

What Will the Operational Referendum Fund?

OPERATIONAL NEEDS



**\$2,000,000 per year
for five years**

The five-year operational referendum would be focused on improving student opportunities and experiences:

- Continue to update curriculum and expand digital access to academic software
- Purchase annual instruction kits
- Provide professional development for staff to stay current with curriculum changes and updates
- Provide technology devices for student use and improve internet speed and reliability
- Replace outdated audio-visual equipment in classrooms



For More Information...



What Will the Capital Referendum Fund?

SAFETY & SECURITY



\$12,740,000

- Reconfigure main entrances at **all schools** to better control visitor access
- Route visitors through main entrances at all schools to limit access in school buildings

EDUCATIONAL SPACE IMPROVEMENTS



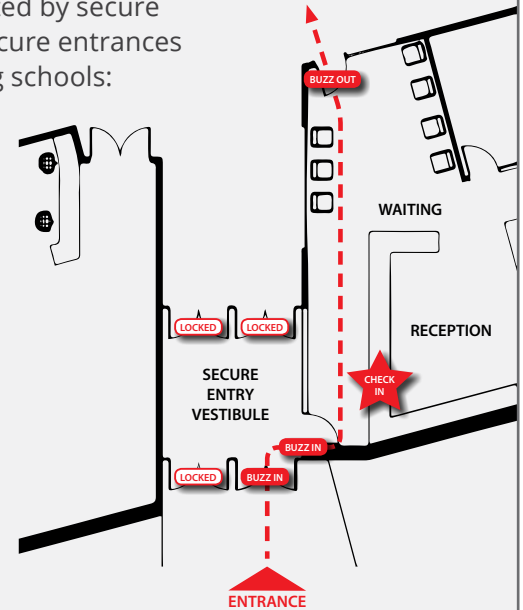
\$21,260,000

- Renovate outdated science labs at Lincoln High School to meet today's educational standards and expand STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) course offerings
- Relocate Lincoln's library to the 1st floor, and construct a Student Resource Center to provide a collaborative learning space
- Create separate gym and cafeteria at THINK Academy (Rudolph Elementary) by building a new gym and re-purpose existing space into a dedicated cafeteria
- Address District-wide capital maintenance needs that cannot be funded through our annual operating budget

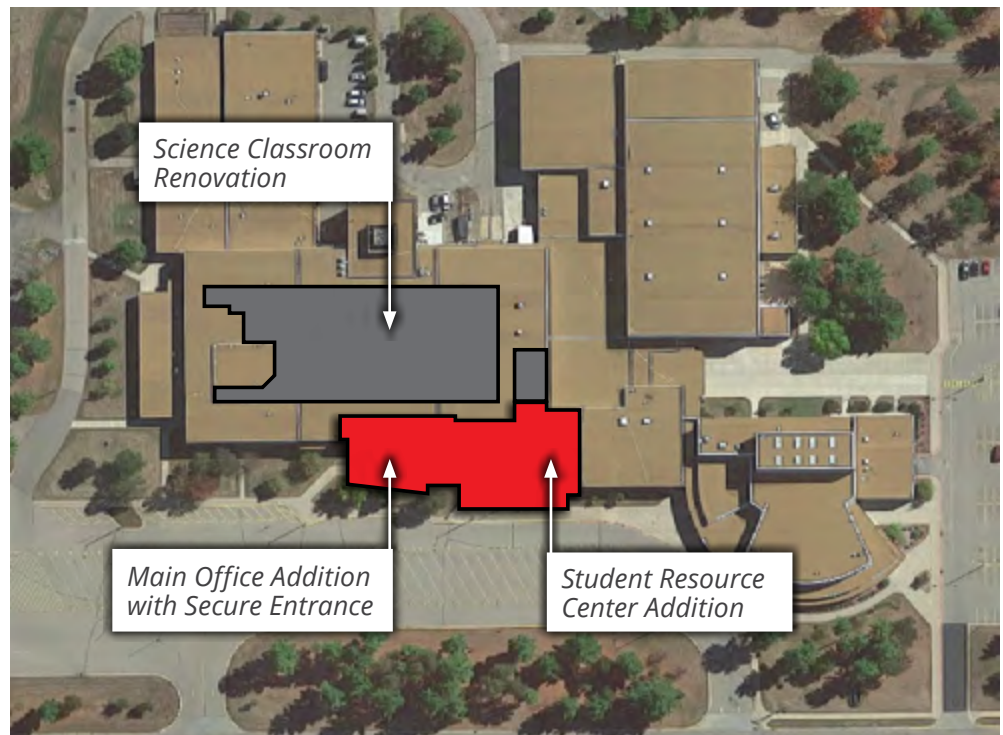
Secure Entrance Reconfigurations

This architectural drawing illustrates an example of a controlled traffic pattern created by secure entrances. Reconfigurations for secure entrances will be constructed at the following schools:

- Lincoln High
- River Cities High
- Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle
- Grant Elementary
- Grove Elementary
- Howe Elementary
- Mead Elementary
- THINK Academy (Rudolph)
- Washington Elementary
- Woodside Elementary



Lincoln High School



Preliminary plans only.

**To see the proposed plans at each building, please visit the District website.*

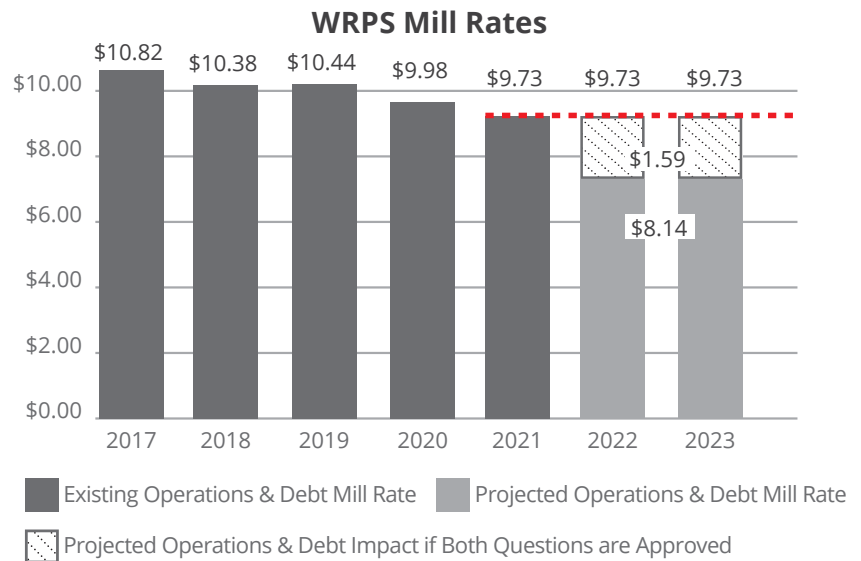
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What is the Tax Impact?

As a result of careful financial planning, retirement of existing debt, and historically low interest rates, the District can address the identified operating and facility needs with little to no increase over current school tax levels.

If approved, the referendum questions will NOT increase the school portion of the mill rate.



Attend a Referendum Information Session

Please join us for an upcoming Referendum Information Session to learn about the proposed plans and get your questions answered. Information meetings will be in-person with virtual access. Due to the pandemic, masks and social distancing will be required during any in-person meetings.

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

6:00PM to 7:00PM
Performing Arts Center
1801 16th Street South

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

6:00PM to 7:00PM
WR Area Middle School Auditorium
1921 27th Avenue South

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

6:00PM to 7:00PM
Performing Arts Center
1801 16th Street South

For More Information...

Call 715.424.6701 | **Visit** www.wrps.org | **Email** craig.broeren@wrps.net | **Follow** @WRPSDistrict 