

**Aledo ISD 2017 Bond Package
Frequently Asked Questions
As of October 30, 2017**

1. *What is the total amount of the 2017 proposed bond package?*

The bond consists of two propositions: **Proposition A** totals **\$64,190,000** and **Proposition B** totals **\$8,760,000** for a combined total of **\$72,950,000** for **Proposition A and Proposition B**.

Proposition A includes the project costs for Middle School No. 2 and renovations to McAnally Intermediate School to repurpose it as Vandagriff Elementary School.

Proposition B includes the project costs for expansion and renovation of Aledo High School Agriculture Education Facility and funds for the purchase of land for current and future building needs.

2. *How did the District determine the bond projects?*

Long-Range Facilities Plan

A citizens committee, known as the Aledo ISD 2025 Committee, was organized in 2014 to review the current and future needs of the Aledo ISD. They evaluated the District's comprehensive needs related to safety and security, technology, buses, capital improvements, renovations, and growth and created a long-range facility plan for the upcoming 10 years that was adopted by the District.

Their work resulted in a recommendation for a bond election which was passed in May of 2015 that included controlled entries at Stuard, Coder, and Vandagriff Elementary Schools and Aledo Middle School, district-wide technology upgrades, capital improvements, new buses, and the design and construction of Elementary School No. 5 (This campus was subsequently named Walsh Elementary School). All projects have been undertaken successfully and are nearing completion.

Their work also included the long-range plan of adjusting the campus grade configuration from K-4th grade elementary schools, 5th-6th grade intermediate schools and 7th-8th grade middle schools to K-5th grade elementary schools and 6th-8th grade middle schools. The grade reconfiguration was adopted to minimize transitions for Aledo ISD students, to support the developmental needs of middle school students, to keep fifth graders closer to their neighborhoods, re-align grade levels in support of state testing, and to provide for a cost effective, sustainable model moving into fast growth.

Long-term, the adopted plan also included the desired replacement of Vandagriff Elementary School and the oldest core portion of Aledo Middle School due to their age, physical constraints, and their inability to serve the current educational programs adequately.

With the opening of Walsh Elementary School in August 2017, the first phase of the grade level realignment was implemented district-wide this school year by moving fifth grade back into each elementary school.

2017 Bond Steering Committee Recommendation

In summer of this year, a Bond Steering Committee, made up of community members, parents, and business owners, reviewed the continuing needs of the District. They studied current demographic projections, the District's financial capacity, facility needs, and educational program needs and overlaid them with the 2025 Committee's long-range plan. Through much deliberation, they came to the unanimous conclusion that Middle School No. 2, repurposing of McAnally Intermediate to serve as a replacement elementary for Vandagriff, expansion of the Ag facility at the high school, land purchase funds, and a measure of capital improvements were of highest priority and should be recommended to the Board of Trustees for inclusion in a November 2017 bond package.

They acknowledged that Elementary School No. 6 will be required shortly, but should be deferred to a future bond. It was through much deliberation and unanimous consensus that the Bond Steering Committee concluded that the bond presented should align with the District's current bond capacity. They determined that it was premature to seek authorization of elementary school funds at this time.

Board of Trustees Call for Bond Referendum

On August 21st, the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees unanimously elected to call for a bond referendum in the amount of \$72,950,000 to include all initiatives recommended by the 2017 Bond Steering Committee, with exception of the capital improvements. Although the Trustees support the Committee's desire to remain committed to life cycle replacement of existing equipment and finishes, they elected to address capital improvements in a near-term future bond. The projects that were included are the following:

- Middle School No. 2
- Repurpose McAnally Intermediate to become Vandagriff Elementary
- Expansion and Renovation of Aledo High School Agriculture Education Facility
- Land Purchase

3. *What is included in the 2017 bond package?*

Middle School No. 2

Middle School No. 2 is necessary to alleviate existing capacity limitations and to meet the projected growth of grades 6-8 by the school year 2020-2021 based upon demographic projections provided by Templeton Demographics. The current Aledo Middle School's functional capacity is 958 students and Templeton projects 1,660 students in grades 6-8 by fall 2020.

Middle School No. 2 will provide for 900 seats grades 6-8. If approved, it will be designed to include all safety and security features and technology systems recently employed throughout the District. It will be located north of Interstate 20 as a foundation of the northern feeder pattern. Students will be given access to learning features that enhance collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity as well as fine arts and athletic development opportunities. Faculty will have access to dedicated professional development workrooms to support planning and collaboration. The campus will include tennis courts and a competition field and track so the school can serve as a community and neighborhood hub.

The campus requires three years for design and construction and would be scheduled to be completed in time for the 2020-2021 school year. Once complete, the Aledo ISD student population in grades 6-8 will be redistributed to Aledo Middle School and Middle School No. 2.

McAnally Renovations

The Aledo ISD 2025 Committee identified the conversion of McAnally Intermediate School to serve as a replacement elementary for the Vandagriff campus once the sixth graders can move into the middle school concept. The sixth graders will be distributed between the existing Aledo Middle School campus and the new Middle School No. 2 in the school year 2020-2021.

The facility currently named Vandagriff Elementary School has served the Community very well for over 50 years. However, the age and physical condition of Vandagriff dictates the need for replacement. The adaptation of McAnally serves as a cost effective replacement solution while providing for extra capacity in this growth zone. Additionally, it has the added benefit of keeping the Vandagriff students in the same relative neighborhood zone as well as reducing traffic congestion on Hwy. 1187. The proposed improvements include parent drop-off and bus drop-off canopies, renovation of a special needs suite for physically challenged students, the construction of a permanent bus loop, and new elementary age-appropriate furnishings.

The existing Vandagriff Elementary would potentially be repurposed or sold.

Ag Science Additions

The Ag Science program has seen large enrollment increases and student interest in the past several years. The proposed expansion would include new classroom space, improvements in the existing shop area, and an expansion to the current animal pen area to support the growing enrollment. An increase in animal pens would permit students hands-on opportunities to grow, care for, and show animals.

Funds for Land Purchase

Funds designated for the purchase of land would allow the District to act on optimum land opportunities in advance of development.

4. *How are new facilities and facility improvements funded?*

Funding for Texas's public schools comes from three main sources: local school district property taxes, state funds, and federal funds. The majority of funding comes from local property taxes, which are collected by school districts, and state funding.

A school district's property tax rate is made up of a Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate and, if applicable, an Interest & Sinking (I&S) tax rate. As its name suggests, the M&O tax rate provides funds for the maintenance and operational costs of a school district. The I&S tax rate provides funds for repayment of the debt that finances a district's facilities.

Taxpayers pay a combined tax rate to the Aledo ISD that supports these two different funds. The M&O tax rate is \$1.17 and funds the general operations of the District. This is like the part of a household budget that pays for utilities, food, clothing and gasoline. Schools are a people-intensive business and about 85 percent of these funds go to personnel costs.

The I&S tax rate is often called the debt service tax rate. Funds generated from this tax rate go toward paying off the debt generated by the issuance of schoolhouse bonds. This is the part of the household budget that pays for the home mortgage, the car loan, or a financed expenditure for a computer or other large item. Bonds are issued as school projects are needed. Most bonds are issued for 30 years, but the principal amount issued for short-term assets, such as technology equipment, are paid off more quickly.

5. *What is a bond election?*

The law provides that a school district must hold an election and get authorization from registered voters to sell bonds and to levy taxes to pay for them. Bonds are sold to provide funding for capital improvements that last for a number of years. Such investments are too large to be included in operating budgets. Just as an individual agrees to repay a new home loan, voters authorize the District to sell and repay bonds for making major capital improvements. School boards can only levy taxes in the amount necessary to repay the bonds. If the amount needed to pay the bonds is less, the district taxes less.

6. *How can bond money be used?*

Bond money can be used for items such as new schools and facilities, expansion and renovations of existing facilities, furniture, technology, equipment, buses, and new school sites.

7. *What can bond money NOT be used for?*

Bonds can only be used for items like those listed in question 6. They may not be used for teacher salaries and other such operating expenses.

8. *How does the bond process work?*

- The Board of Trustees call for an election.
- If bonds are approved by voters, bonds are sold to investors.
- Proceeds are used for approved capital projects.
- Each year, the school board must set a tax rate in two parts: one to cover the operating costs (payroll, supplies and equipment, insurance, utilities, etc.) and the other to pay principal and interest due on bonds.
- The District can only collect what is necessary to repay the debt.

9. *What happens if the bond doesn't pass?*

If the bond does not pass, based upon demographic projections, the District will run out of classroom space at Aledo Middle School and at Vandagriff Elementary as new students move into the District. Consolidation of the sixth grade into the middle school configuration will be delayed. When that occurs, the District will have the option of purchasing or leasing portable buildings and/or increasing class sizes. These portables will be paid for out of the Maintenance and Operations budget which means we will have less available funds for personnel, programs, facility operation, and transportation.

10. How soon can you start construction after the bond passes?

The bonds can be sold anywhere from 45-60 days after the bond election. Generally, once a bond issue passes, design shall begin immediately on all projects. Construction is scheduled to begin summer of 2018 for the Middle School and the Ag Facility. The renovation of McAnally would not begin until the summer of 2020 just prior to converting it to Vandagriff Elementary School.

11. What is the role of the school district during a bond election?

The appropriate role for any school district during a bond election is to share factual information with the voters so the community can make an informed choice as to whether they wish to support or oppose a bond proposition. The District should also be responsive to citizens' questions related to the bond issue and to ensure voters know when and where they have an opportunity to vote.

12. What if I am over 65?

The State Property Tax Code allows for school property taxes on an individual homestead to be "frozen" at the age of 65. If you are 65 years of age or older and you have filed for the "Over 65 Homestead Exemption", there is a ceiling on the amount of school taxes to be paid. The only exception is if improvements are made to a home. As such, a tax increase from a new bond program cannot increase the applicable tax ceiling of a taxpayer that has qualified for the "Over 65 Homestead Exemption."

13. What is the tax impact?

The projected debt service tax rate increase due to the 2017 bond program is \$2.42 per month for each \$100,000 of taxable home value for Proposition A, \$0.33 per month for each \$100,000 of taxable home value for Proposition B, or \$2.75 per month for each \$100,000 of taxable home value for both propositions combined.

14. Will the grade level configuration change for the intermediate and middle schools?

Yes. The Aledo ISD 2025 Committee studied numerous options for grade level configuration and school size and determined that converting to a K-5 elementary school and 6-8 middle school models would best serve the District's needs in the near future, as well as long-term. The K-5 elementary school model would benefit students by allowing them to stay at their neighborhood campus for another year and would be conducive to the fifth grader's educational development and maturity. The 900 student, 6-8 grade middle school model would reduce the number of campus transitions and would provide increased opportunities for students in a reduced 300 student class grade level. This model would provide for a smaller neighborhood campus and would be more cost effective to build and operate.

The new K-5 reconfiguration was put into effect this school year (2017-2018) with the opening of Walsh Elementary School. The District is now operating five, elementary K-5 campuses, a sixth grade campus at McAnally and a 7-8 grade campus at Aledo Middle School. Once Middle School No. 2 is constructed, both it and Aledo Middle School would operate as 6-8 middle school campuses. Ultimately, per the long-range facility plan and when funds are available, Aledo Middle School will be renovated.

15. When and Where to Vote?

Registered Voters of the District Residing in Parker County

Early voting sites and hours for voting by personal appearance for the Special Election to be held on November 7, 2017, as conducted by Parker County, Texas are as follows:

Main Voting Site:

Parker County Courthouse Annex

1112 Santa Fe Dr
Annex Kitchen
Weatherford, TX

Branch Voting Sites:

Aledo ISD Administration Building

1008 Bailey Ranch Rd
Aledo, TX
Meeting Room

Willow Park Municipal Building

516 Ranch House Rd
Willow Park, TX
City Council Meeting Room

Springtown City Hall

200 N Main St
Springtown, TX
City Council Meeting Room

Old Brock ISD Administration Building

100 Grindstone Rd
Brock, TX
Meeting Room

Peaster Fire Department

221 Judd St
Peaster, TX
Meeting Room

Azle Masonic Lodge

257 W Main St
Azle, TX
Meeting Room

Regular Early Voting Hours and Days:

Monday, October 23, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 25, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 26, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, October 27, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday, October 30, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 31, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 1, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 2, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday, November 3, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The following hours apply to Aledo ISD Administration Building ONLY:

Monday, October 23, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 25, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
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Friday, October 27, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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Wednesday, November 1, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 2, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday, November 3, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The following hours apply to Peaster Fire Department ONLY:

Monday, October 23, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 25, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 26, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, October 27, 2017	8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 30, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 31, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 1, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 2, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday, November 3, 2017	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The following weekend dates and times apply ONLY at Parker County Courthouse Annex and Aledo ISD Administration Building:

Saturday, October 28, 2017 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 29, 2017 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Applications for ballots by mail may be obtained by calling **(817)598-6185**
Applications for ballots by mail must be received by the Early Voting Clerk
No later than the close of business on
Friday, October 27, 2017
Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Don Markum, Early Voting Clerk
1112 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford TX 76086
Fax: (817)598-6183
Email: elections@parkercountytexas.com

Registered Voters of the District Residing in Tarrant County

Early voting sites and hours for voting by personal appearance for the Special Election to be held on November 7, 2017, as conducted by Tarrant County, Texas are not available as of September 20th. Please visit www.tarrantcounty.com periodically for finalized information from the Tarrant County Elections Department.

As of September 20, 2017, following are the voting sites for Election Day, November 7, 2017:

Precincts at Site	Election Day Polling Location	Entity/Notes
1348	First Baptist Church of Crowley 400 Eagle Drive South Crowley, TX 76036	Aledo ISD
1111	HighRidge Church 10100 Rolling Hills Drive Fort Worth, TX 76126	Aledo ISD

16. How does the District select general contractors for new campus construction projects?

The District's Board of Trustees must first determine the construction delivery/procurement method to use. Based on the method selected, the District then follows state guidelines to competitively determine the general contractor to use for the construction of the school.

17. Why is the Aledo ISD debt per student at its current level?

The Aledo ISD is a "new" school district from a facility point of view in that outside of Vandagriff Elementary School and the current Aledo Middle School facility, all of the District's campuses have opened in 1988 or later. Eight (8) of the District's ten (10) campuses have been built and opened within the past 30 years. The District's student enrollment in the spring of 1988 was 1,588. As of Oct. 24, the student enrollment was 5,697, an increase of 4,109 students. The District has had to build new campuses to house this increase in student enrollment. The only way for the District to pay for these additional campuses was to get authorization from the District's taxpayers via bond elections. After the community's support of these bond elections, the Board of Trustees authorizes the sale of bonds to pay for the needed campuses.