

SOUTHWESTERN

INVESTING IN OUR **STUDENTS**



SCHOOL DISTRICT

INVESTING IN OUR **FUTURE**

REFERENDUM FACT SHEET #2: How is the referendum going to improve our academics and impact our students?

Ballot Question #1

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Southwestern Wisconsin Community School District, Grant and Lafayette counties, Wisconsin, that there shall be issued, pursuant to Chapter 67, Wisconsin Status, General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed **\$10,000,000** for the purpose of paying the costs of building improvements, renovations, additions and site improvements at the high school and middle/elementary school buildings in connection with relocating the middle school to the existing high school building; and equipment acquisition related to said projects.

Career and college ready students are our number one priority at Southwestern. There are provisions built into the referendum—these provisions will allow the district to purchase new equipment and items for our classrooms.

Here is an example of some of the items that the district is looking to purchase with referendum dollars:

Technology Education and Vocational Equipment

- Tools and machinery upgrades for “hands-on” learning for skilled and labor careers
- Robotic materials and vex kits utilized for teaching students basics in engineering, design, repair, and machine concepts
- Technology lab to include Auto Computer Aided Design (AutoCAD), a commercial software application used to draft 2 and 3 dimensional models using computers. AutoCAD is used across a wide range of industries by architects, project managers, engineers, graphic designers, and many other professionals

Opportunities with Technology

- Chromebooks or other digital devices to assist in a 1 device to 1 student desire for the entire middle school and high school
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW) programs to allow students to engage in hands-on activities, projects, and problem solving that are reflective of real-world challenges resulting in independent, confident problem solvers. Currently we are providing PLTW programs in our elementary and middle school by utilizing a 3-D printer

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- Science, Math, Engineering, and Technology (STEM)—The upgrades to STEM equipment will generate new methods to teach our students, allow sharing of ideas amongst classmates, and collaborate amongst the different departments to overlap ideas, curriculum, and expectations
- Makerspace—areas to enhance hands-on learning using small motors and tools to be innovative in designing different ideas and concepts

Classroom equipment

- Science lab upgrades such as functioning lab stations including tables, supplies, drop down electrical cords and gas lines
- Desks, tables, chairs, and equipment for sensory needs of students
- Equipment, such as elliptical/treadmill, to assist in Personal Fitness and Wellness class implemented in '16-17 year.*

**Items purchased for fitness center will be available for student and community use*

Did you know?

The referendum will help alleviate expenditures within the budget allowing the district to provide staff with more professional development courses, increase opportunities for additional programs for students, and utilize district funds to maximize resources to impact student learning. Some of these opportunities are to develop advanced curriculum in conjunction with related courses to make students career and college ready.

Did you know?

Southwestern is on the way to leading in academic success in the southwest corner of the state. These results are derived by student test results, current curriculum, graduation rate, facilities, and many other attributes. These results are also shared on many realtor sites to attract new families and residents to our district.

School District Report Card Results for 2015-2016

- District - 73.0 Exceeds Expectations
- High School - 72.4 Meets Expectations
- Elementary/Middle School - 71.3 Meets Expectations

"The education and support from the teachers and staff of Southwestern elementary, middle and high school laid a very solid groundwork for my educational and career achievements. The earning of my undergraduate degrees in history and political science and my subsequent achievement of receiving my law degree all began in the Southwestern educational community. As I have progressed in my career in the political and legislative advocacy realm, I often think back to the encouragement I received to pursue this career path by numerous excellent teachers at Southwestern who recognized my potential to succeed, even before I knew it myself!"— Jason E. Johns

—Jason grew up in Louisburg and is a 1994 graduate of Southwestern. He served with the Army in Iraq, is a former deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and is the National Senior Vice-Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, U.S.A. He is also the president and owner of Wisconsin Legislative Strategies and N.M.L.B. Veterans Advocacy Group in Madison, WI.