



REFERENDUM FACT SHEET #1: Why is the Southwestern School District seeking an addition to the current facilities?

Enrollment has been stable for the past 2 years. Future projections are expected to have an increase in the total enrollment over the next 5 years at Southwestern.

Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) formally called SAGE is a program that Southwestern has been part of since 2000. The program mandates us to maintain small class sizes of 18:1. It also offers professional development to our staff related to small group instruction. It helps in reducing the achievement gap in reading and mathematics in grades K-3.

Title Math and Reading programs are utilized to provide extra help with the math and reading curriculum for some students, when compared to their peers. This program has grown as we have been able to recognize these needs earlier in children; therefore, we can intervene and help them stay on track.

Special Education/Academic Support (Title Math, Title Reading, Speech Pathologist) classes are being taught in rooms that were originally built to be offices or closet and storage areas. There are times that 6-8 students are in these rooms at one time.

- Students are not able to sit at individual desks that can help with their individual sensory needs.
- Physical/active learning is inhibited because of lack of space.
- The small rooms limit classroom supplies and equipment.

Band

- 90% of the 6-8 grade students participate in band, which is 94 students.
- Band does not have a room large enough for full band practices; students use the activity room of the middle school gymnasium. There are no acoustic barriers, storage areas are very limited, and there is not adequate space for the band students.

Taken from website: <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org>

- Smaller classes in the early grades (K-3) can boost student academic achievement;
- A class size of no more than 18 students per teacher is required to produce the greatest benefits;
- Reducing class size will have little effect without enough classrooms and well-qualified teachers;
- Supports, such as professional development for teachers and a rigorous curriculum, enhance the effect of reduced class size on academic achievement.

