

**Birdville ISD**  
**2018 Bond**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

***Who was involved in putting the package together?***

The plan was developed with extensive community input from a diverse group of citizens from all parts of the District. A committee of more than 40 community and business leaders began work in January 2018 to evaluate the facilities needs of the District. During the course of their meetings, they studied facilities needs and deficiencies, student enrollment, demographics reports and financial reports before making a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Committee members were:

Bill Agan	Carrie Goodman	Ben Roden
Mary Barwinkel	Tara Goodwin	Tito Rodriguez
Greg Bell	James Grant	Karen Sanchez
Becky Bolstad	Dyanne Grow	Britney Sechrist
Jack Bradshaw	Jack Knowles	Kyle Spooner
John Cope	Bill Lanford	Tommy Stamps
Brock Crymes	Jack Lewis	Martha Strain
Larry Cunningham	Michael Logan	Jeanine Suazo
Kathleen Davis	Misty Lynch	Anita Weddle
Cos DeLeo	Bill Mapston	Kristin Wheeler
Breon Dennis	Scott Maze	John Williams
Debbie Durko	David Nelson	Jason Winans
Carlton Franklin	Julie Nguyen	Mark Wood
Mike Gist	Greg Pierce	Chris Zimmer
Beverly Goodman	Erin Powell	

***What is included in the proposed bond?***

- Birdville ISD voters are being asked to consider a bond proposal for the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot totaling \$252.8 million. The board of trustees unanimously called for the bond following the recommendation of the 2018 Bond Planning Committee. The final proposal addresses replacing five campuses with four (Haltom Middle School, Richland Middle School, Smithfield Elementary School and Major Cheney Elementary/Richland Elementary [Partner School]), safety and security enhancements at every campus, renovations at Smithfield Middle School and Haltom High School, and critical repair/renovation needs requiring action in the next three years and technology upgrades districtwide.
- Under the proposal, all campuses in the District will receive additional safety and security measures and technology.

## **Bond Highlights**

- **Rebuild Haltom Middle School**
  - Opened in 1956
  - Eliminates 20 portable classrooms
  - Provides additional classroom and support space
  - Total estimated cost to complete deferred maintenance projects for the building is more than 87 percent of what it would cost to rebuild the campus
- **Rebuild Richland Middle School**
  - Opened in 1956
  - Eliminates 18 portable classrooms
  - Provides additional classroom and support space
  - Total estimated cost to complete deferred maintenance projects for the building is more than 83 percent of what it would cost to rebuild the campus
- **Rebuild Smithfield Elementary**
  - Opened in 1954
  - Eliminates four portable classrooms
  - Provides additional classroom and support space
  - Total estimated cost to complete deferred maintenance projects for the building is more than 75 percent of what it would cost to rebuild the campus
- **Build Partner Elementary School (Cheney/Richland)**
  - **Major Cheney Elementary at South Birdville**
    - Opened in 1953
    - Eliminates eight portable classrooms
    - Total estimated cost to complete deferred maintenance projects for the building is more than 74 percent of what it would cost to rebuild the campus
  - **Richland Elementary**
    - Opened in 1953
    - BISD's smallest elementary school
    - Total estimated cost to complete deferred maintenance projects for the building is more than 59 percent of what it would cost to rebuild the campus
- **Districtwide Safety/Security Upgrades**
  - Provides enhanced security at all Rebuilt campuses
  - Provides Intercom/Communication Systems to enhance safety on all campuses
  - Provides addition of Lockdown buttons on all campuses



- **Provides a security vestibule at 15 campuses (All rebuilds will have safety vestibules)**

North Oaks Middle	Hardeman Elementary
North Ridge Middle	Holiday Heights Elementary
Smithfield Middle	Mullendore Elementary
Watauga Middle	North Ridge Elementary
Academy at C.F. Thomas Elem.	Porter Elementary
Foster Village Elementary	Snow Heights Elementary
Francisco Elementary	Spicer Elementary
Green Valley Elementary	
- **Renovations**
  - Smithfield Middle School
    - Gym/Emergency Storm Shelter, Locker Rooms, Restrooms
  - Haltom High School
    - Classroom Enhancements/Auditorium Renovations
- **Technology Upgrades at all Facilities**
  - Replacement of obsolete equipment
  - Student/classroom technology upgrades
    - Moves from a 5:1 student-to-technology ratio to a 2:1 student-to-technology ratio
  - Teacher/staff technology upgrades
  - Network operations/disaster recovery servers and equipment updated
  - Technology Bonds paid off in five years
- **Repairs and Upgrades**
  - Heating and Air Conditioning/Roof Replacement
  - Theater lighting upgrades at Birdville, Haltom and Richland high schools

***What will guarantee that these projects will be done as proposed?***

If the bond package passes, BISD’s board of trustees will once again form a citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee to oversee the bond to ensure everything in the proposal is completed and within budget.

The final reports of the 2006 and 2014 Bond Oversight Committees said, “In summary, the oversight committee commends the Birdville Board, administration, and staff for completing all projects promised to the voters of BISD, on time and within resources available for construction projects ... .”

[2006 Bond Citizen’s Oversight Committee Final Report](#)  
[2014 Bond Citizen’s Oversight Committee Website](#)

***Will this plan eliminate all portable buildings in BISD?***

No, however, the bond proposal being presented to BISD voters on November 6 does eliminate 50 portable classrooms across the District.

***How does this bond address technology in the District?***

The focus of the technology portion of the bond proposal is to create equity across the District through standard classroom and campus technology that incorporates new and existing technology. The plan:

- Replaces obsolete equipment;
- Provides for student/classroom technology upgrades;
- Moves from a 5:1 student-to-technology ratio to a 2:1 student-to-technology ratio;
- Provides teacher/staff technology upgrades; and
- Updates network operations/disaster recovery servers and equipment.

The technology plan will be rolled out over several years with a focus on addressing equity across the District. In addition, as existing technology is no longer functional for instruction, it will be replaced with new technology. The plan allows for flexibility in selecting devices as technology continues to change. By expanding the wireless network, it allows connectivity for more flexible learning that can happen anywhere. Technology bonds are paid off in five years.

***How does this bond address safety and security?***

The safety of our students and staff remains a top priority in Birdville ISD. District staff work diligently to maintain safe and secure facilities. What has been added/replaced in the past 48 months?

- Front door buzzer systems installed at all K–8 schools
- Obsolete security cameras replaced
- Card readers added to more than 92 doors throughout BISD
- Obsolete security video recorders replaced
- Security for Fine Arts/Athletics Complex
- Lighting and camera projects throughout BISD

The 2018 final bond proposal includes:

- Providing enhanced security at all proposed rebuilt campuses
- Provides safety vestibules at:
 

North Oaks Middle	Hardeman Elementary
North Ridge Middle	Holiday Heights Elementary
Smithfield Middle	Mullendore Elementary
Watauga Middle	North Ridge Elementary
Academy at C.F. Thomas Elem.	Porter Elementary
Foster Village Elementary	Snow Heights Elementary
Francisco Elementary	Spicer Elementary
Green Valley Elementary	
- Provides intercom/communication systems to enhance safety on all campuses
- Addition of lockdown buttons on all campuses

***What is the Partner school for Major Cheney Elementary at South Birdville and Richland Elementary?***

The 2017–18 enrollment for Cheney was **447** students, and Richland was **297**. After much discussion, the Committee agreed to propose a Partner school because they learned there was not a good option for either campus to be rebuilt on their current sites. The Committee was presented with an option that would centrally locate the new campus between the current campuses. By building this Partner school (a combined campus), the District eliminates eight portable classrooms and potentially saves up to \$1 million in operational costs each year.

***What middle school will students attending the new partner school (Cheney/Richland elementary schools) go to?***

Once the schools join together to form the new campus, the students that attended Richland Elementary will continue to attend Richland Middle School and Birdville High School. Students that attended Cheney Elementary will continue to attend North Richland Middle School and Richland High School.

The dividing line is Big Fossil Creek. Students that live east of Big Fossil Creek will attend Richland Middle School and Birdville High School. Those that live west of Big Fossil Creek will attend North Richland Middle School and Richland High School.

***What will happen to the old Cheney and Richland elementary buildings if the Partner school is built?***

BISD will work with the city and community leaders to determine the best use of those properties.

***Will teachers lose their jobs because of the partner school with Cheney and Richland elementary schools?***

No. Just because the campuses are coming together doesn't mean the students go away. Teachers from both campuses will be merged together as one team to serve the new campus. No teachers or administrators will lose their employment in the District because of the proposal.

***Does BISD receive tax income from open enrollment students?***

We do not collect local property taxes for open enrollment students. However, BISD does receive funds from the state for those students. In addition, through the Existing Debt Allotment (EDA) the state assists Birdville ISD in repaying bond debt. That assistance is based on the number of students we serve, whether they are open enrollment students or residents.

***How will this bond affect property taxes?***

School property tax rates will not increase as a result of this bond proposal.

***How can this bond proposal be accomplished without a tax rate increase?***

The efficient management of the BISD's existing bond debt over the last six years has allowed the District to refinance more than \$142.2 million of its outstanding bonds at a lower interest rate, saving taxpayers \$18,360,986 in future interest costs. The District has also prepaid approximately \$16.3 million of its bonds prior to scheduled maturity, saving an additional \$11,102,560 for taxpayers. BISD will continue to carefully monitor its bond debt and related interest rates in an effort to save taxpayers additional dollars in the future.

The District repays its bonds on an annual basis over a period of 25 years or less, while structuring its annual bond payments to decline over time creating additional bonding capacity for future bond proposals. Furthermore, the District repays its bonds based upon the useful life of the assets for which the District is financing. As an example, BISD repays bonds issued for new school buildings over a 25-year period, but repays bonds issued for technology and other short-term assets over a period of 3 to 10 years.

Birdville ISD will have the ability to sell these additional bonds with **NO** school tax rate increase due to bond prepayments and the refinancing of current bonds at lower interest rates.

***How long will it take the proposed bond debt to be paid?***

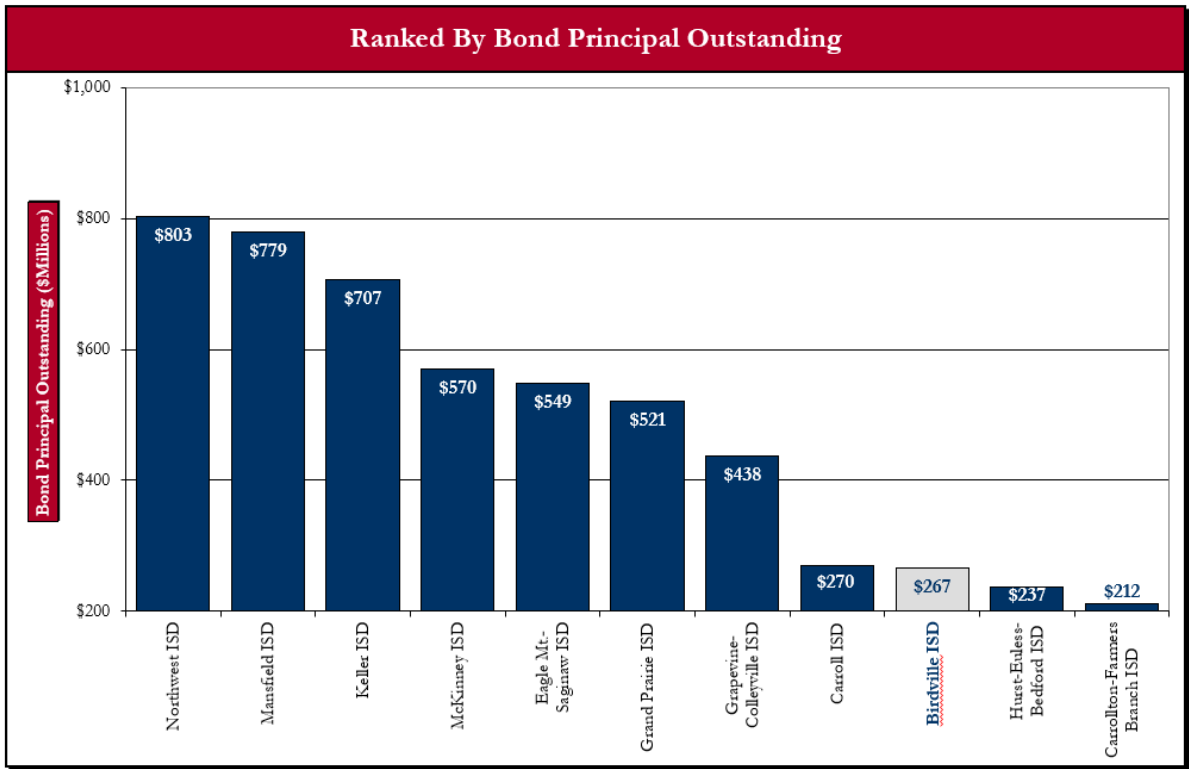
While some school districts finance bonds for 30 to 40 years, BISD bonds are fully repaid in 25 years or less, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in interest.

***Can these bonds and other BISD bonds be paid off early?***

Yes, bonds may be repaid prior to final maturity. While the bonds from the District's proposed 2018 bond election will initially be structured with annual principal payments over 25 years, Birdville ISD will retain the flexibility to prepay these bonds prior to their scheduled maturity, without penalty. In fact, over the last five years, the District has repaid \$16,296,016 of its existing bonds prior to final maturity, saving taxpayers \$11,102,560 in future bond payments.

**How much debt does the District currently have?**

On Nov. 6, 2018, the District’s current principal balance on bonded debt will be approximately \$253.6 million from bond elections in 1996, 2005, 2006 and 2014. Total debt including interest is \$380.8 million. Each year, the District pays off a portion of its existing bonds. All bond obligations from 1986, 1990 and 1993 have been paid. All current BISD bonds are scheduled to be paid off by 2040 with almost one-half being paid off by 2024.



Source: The Municipal Advisory Council of Texas – As of August 31, 2017. Includes Voted and M&O debt.

**Is BISD financing the technology in the bond proposal for 25 years when its life span is typically five years?**

No. In the past, the Board has financed technology bonds for no more than five years. Consequently, technology is paid for before the end of the equipment’s life cycle.

**What is a bond election?**

The law provides that a school district must hold an election and get permission from 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 may 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.

***How can bond money be used?***

Bond money can be used for new schools and facilities, expansion and renovations of existing facilities, furniture, technology, equipment, buses and other support vehicles, and new school sites.

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

Bond money may **not** be used for personnel, raises, utilities, and other such operating expenses. Bonds may only be used for capital improvements and related costs.

***How does the bond process work?***

- Board calls for an election.
- If a bond referendum is 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 voter-approved bonds.
- The District may only collect what is necessary to repay the debt.

***When will the work begin and be completed?***

If voters approve the bond referendum in November 2018, work would begin immediately to design and develop a schedule of when work on individual campuses will take place. With the amount of work to be done, it is anticipated it will take 36 to 48 months to complete all the projects. Most renovations will take place during summer months when no students or staff are on campus. However, when it is necessary to do work during the school year, it will be scheduled to have the least impact on the education process and to assure student and staff safety. Also, all construction workers must have criminal background checks before they may work on any school site.

For Haltom Middle, Richland Middle, Smithfield Elementary and the Cheney/Richland Partner elementary school, it can take 18 to 36 months to complete design work and build the new facilities.

***What if I am over 65?***

The Texas Constitution provides homeowners an “Over 65” property tax exemption when they turn 65. Upon qualification for the exemption, a homeowner may file an application with the Tarrant County Appraisal District. Once the exemption is granted, homeowner property taxes will not increase above what they were the year the homeowner turns 65.

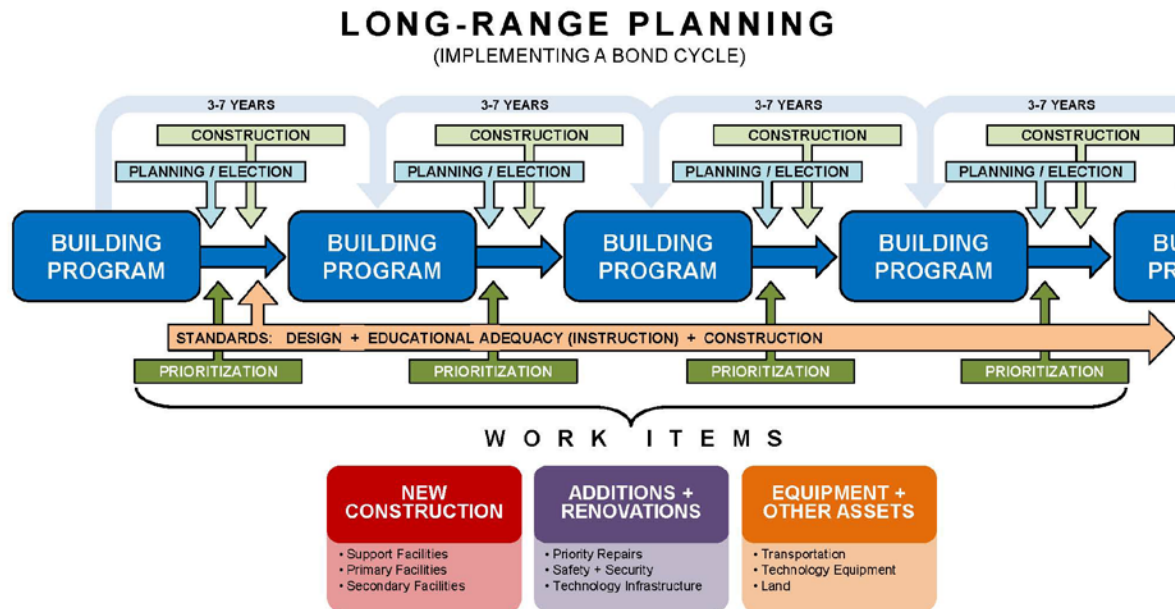
***Does BISD have a long-range plan to address all facility needs?***

The Bond Planning Committee overwhelmingly supports the District developing a long-range plan.

The slide below represents what this might look like. This is only a concept, and the Board and Administration will spend more time developing a final plan for BISD. It will be a



dynamic document that will need to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and it does not guarantee specific campuses a place in future campaigns. However, it does give the District a road map of future needs.



***Why were Haltom Middle, Richland Middle, Smithfield Elementary, and the partner school for Cheney and Richland elementary schools?***

- **Haltom and Richland middle schools**
  - The current enrollment for Haltom Middle is 928 students, and 663 for Richland Middle.
  - At the end of the day, the Committee agreed to include both middle schools, because they felt there was not a good plan for either campus other than rebuilding.
  - The cost to bring both facilities up to current building and TEA standards exceeds 80 percent of the cost to completely rebuild the facilities.
  - By rebuilding these two facilities, the District eliminates 38 portable classrooms.
- **Smithfield Elementary**
  - The current enrollment is 443.
  - With the completion of the new rail line, this campus is expected to see growth.
  - In 2014, the Citizen’s Committee wanted to rebuild West Birdville and Smithfield, but they settled on just West Birdville.
  - Like the middle schools, the Committee felt the only choice for Smithfield Elementary was to rebuild.
  - The cost to bring Smithfield up to current building and TEA standards exceeds 75 percent of the cost to completely rebuild the facility.
  - By rebuilding this campus, the District eliminates four portable classrooms.
- **Partner school for Cheney and Richland elementary schools**

- The current enrollment for Cheney is 447 students, and Richland is 297.
- After much discussion, the Committee agreed to propose a partner school, because they learned there was not a good plan for either campus on their current sites.
- The Committee was presented with an option that would centrally locate the new campus between the current campuses.
- By building this facility, the District eliminates eight portable classrooms and potentially saves up to \$1 million in operational costs each year.

***Will all the students in the District be impacted by this bond?***

Yes. Every campus is impacted by this bond proposal. This proposal includes safety and security and technology on every campus. In addition, students currently in elementary and middle schools will be impacted from work done at their feeder schools.

***How much growth is BISD expecting in the next 5–10 years?***

**Demographics Forecast**

- Total annual home sales within BISD have risen more than 23% in the last five years.
- The average new and existing home sale prices within BISD have risen more than 50% since 2010.
- Roughly 78% of District students reside in single family homes.
- Birdville ISD is projected to enroll nearly 23,649 students for the 2027/28 school year.

*In what years were the current facilities opened?*

<b>Campus</b>	<b>Year Opened</b>
Shannon Education Center	1948
Haltom High School	1989
Richland High School	2009 (Rebuilt)
Birdville High School	1999
Haltom Middle School	1956
North Richland Middle School	2017 (Rebuilt)
Richland Middle School	1956
North Oaks Middle School	1966
Watauga Middle School	1969
Smithfield Middle School	1975
North Ridge Middle School	1989
Birdville Elementary	2017 (Rebuilt)
David E. Smith Elementary	1954
W.T. Francisco Elementary	1959
Jack C. Binion Elementary	2008 (Rebuilt)
Alliene Mullendore Elementary	1955
Richland Elementary	1953
Smithfield Elementary	1954
Snow Heights Elementary	1959
Major Cheney Elementary at South Birdville	1953
O.H. Stowe Elementary	2008 (Rebuilt)
West Birdville Elementary	2016 (Rebuilt)
Holiday Heights Elementary	1966
Watauga Elementary	1966
Grace E. Hardeman Elementary	1971
W.A. Porter Elementary	1976
Academy at C.F. Thomas Elementary	1991
Foster Village Elementary	1980
North Ridge Elementary	1989
John D. Spicer Elementary	1991
Green Valley Elementary	1992
Walker Creek Elementary	2005