

**Birdville ISD
2014 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 50 community and business leaders began work in April 2014 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	Dyanne Grow	Erin Powell
Dustin Austin	Tom Harris	David Ragan
Brent Barrow	Amy Ingram	April Roberson
Mary Barwinkel	Cheryl Kaufman	Ben Roden
Carrie Berry	Lance King	Karen Sanchez
Keith Bertelsen	Jack Knowles	Tracy Schraub
Jack Bradshaw	Bill Lanford	Tommy Stamps
John Cope	Jack Lewis	Martha Strain
Larry Cunningham	Michael Logan	Jeanine Suazo
Kathleen Davis	Bill Mapston	Jay Thompson
Cos DeLeo	Dewey Markum	Sue Turnage
Breon Dennis	Morgan Martinez	Anita Weddle
Debbie Durko	Scott Maze	Kristin Wheeler
Carlton Franklin	Randy Moresi	John Williams
Mike Fritz	Sandy Mork	Jason Winans
Hector Garcia	Susann Ora	Mark Wood
Beverly Goodman	Tony Pack	Chris Zimmer

What is included in the proposed bond?

Birdville ISD voters are being asked to consider a bond proposal for the Nov. 4, 2014 ballot totaling \$163.2 million. The board of trustees unanimously called for the bond following the recommendation of the Bond Planning Committee. The final proposal addresses rebuilding three campuses (North Richland Middle School, Birdville Elementary School and The Academy at West Birdville), safety and security enhancements at every campus, science lab renovations/additions, renovations and upgrades to all facilities not being rebuilt, and technology upgrades districtwide.

Under the proposal, all campuses in the district will receive upgrades, renovations or be rebuilt.

Bond Highlights

- **Rebuild North Richland Middle School**
 - Built in 1962
 - Eliminates 18 portable classrooms
 - Provides adequate classroom and support space
 - Total estimated cost to complete deferred maintenance projects for the building is more than 51 percent of what it would cost to rebuild the campus
- **Rebuild Birdville Elementary**
 - Built in 1955
 - Eliminates eight portable classrooms
 - Addresses structural and capacity issues
- **Rebuild The Academy at West Birdville**
 - Built in 1950
 - Eliminates six portable classrooms
 - Total estimated cost to complete deferred maintenance projects for the building is more than 60 percent of what it would cost to rebuild the campus
- **Safety and Security Upgrades at all Facilities**
 - Provides additional security cameras on each campus
 - Provides additional card access for doors to better secure the facilities
 - Provides a security vestibule at Birdville High
 - Provides security fencing for portable classrooms
- **Science Lab Upgrades/Additions across the district**
 - Addresses state standards (compliance)
 - Adds permanent science lab additions at Smithfield and Watauga middle schools and Watauga Elementary
 - Adds modular science laboratories at all other middle schools, except N. Ridge Middle



Science Lab Recap

- Number of new science laboratories – 16 new science laboratories (six at Watauga Middle, six at Smithfield Middle, two at Birdville High, and two at Watauga Elementary)
- Number of renovated science laboratories – Two at Shannon
- Number of temporary science laboratories – 26 (six at Haltom Middle, six at North Oaks Middle, six at Richland Middle, and eight at Haltom High)
- **Technology Upgrades at all Facilities**
 - Provides wireless connections at all locations
 - Provides four laptops and two mobile devices in every classroom
 - Provides for replacement of all obsolete printers and projectors
 - Provides replacement of obsolete computers for labs, libraries, teachers and administrators
 - Provides portable carts of 24 mobile devices (one classroom set) for each elementary school and secondary campus department (i.e., Math, English, Science)
- **Renovations and Upgrades**
 - Heating and Air Conditioning/Electrical/Roofs
 - Plumbing/Restroom renovations
 - Drainage and structural repairs in courtyards
 - Addresses equity issues between Birdville High and Richland and Haltom high schools in the Fine Arts/Athletics areas

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 2006 bond oversight committee’s final report said, “In summary, the oversight committee commends the Birdville Board, administration, and staff for completing all projects to the voters of BISD, on time and within resources available for construction projects”

[2013 Bond Proposal by Campus](#)

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

Will this plan eliminate all portable buildings in BISD?

No. However, the bond proposal being presented to BISD voters on November 4 eliminates more than 30 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:

- Provides wireless connections throughout the district
- Provides four laptops and two mobile devices in every classroom
- Provides for replacement of all obsolete printers and projectors
- Provides replacement of obsolete computers for labs, libraries, teachers and administrators
- Provides portable carts of 24 mobile devices (one classroom set) for each elementary school and secondary campus department (i.e., Math, English, Science)

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.

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 in the past 18 months?

- Front door buzzer systems installed at all K-8 schools
- Replacement of obsolete cameras
- Card readers added to 92 doors throughout BIRD
- Replacement of obsolete security video recorders
- Security for Fine Arts/Athletics Complex
- Lighting and camera projects throughout BIRD

The 2014 final bond proposal includes:

- Providing additional security cameras on each campus
- Providing card access for additional doors to better secure facilities
- Providing a security vestibule at Birdville High
- Providing security fencing for portable classrooms

How does this bond address science labs in the district?

Requirements set by the Texas Education Agency in recent years have made our science laboratories deficient in size, quantity and functionality. Because of the state requirements for science and math in high school, there are large numbers of students currently enrolled in these programs.

The Bond Planning Committee reviewed science laboratories at every level across the district focusing on:

- Safety equipment and supplies;
- Adequate space to safely store chemicals;
- Adequate lab/classroom space; and
- Functionality.

The 2014 final bond proposal includes:

- Adding safety equipment and emergency shut-off valves, where needed;
- Adds water and other utilities to meet current standards;
- Addresses state standards (compliance);
- Adds permanent science classroom additions at Birdville High School, Smithfield and Watauga middle schools and Watauga Elementary; and
- Adds modular science laboratories at all other middle schools, except North Ridge Middle School where lab space is sufficient, and Haltom High School.

Science Lab Recap

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What is the Academy at West Birdville?

The Academy at West Birdville was formally known as West Birdville Elementary School. The name was changed to The Academy at West Birdville in the late 90s, but the curriculum is the same as the other elementary schools in BISD.

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?

If BISD voters approve this bond proposal, it will increase property taxes approximately \$3 per month on a house valued at \$120,000.
(\$120,000 - \$15,000 homestead exemption = \$105,000.)

Home Value (After \$15,000 homestead exemption)	Approximate Monthly Tax Impact
\$105,000	\$3
\$210,000	\$6
\$315,000	\$9

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

While some 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 be paid off early?

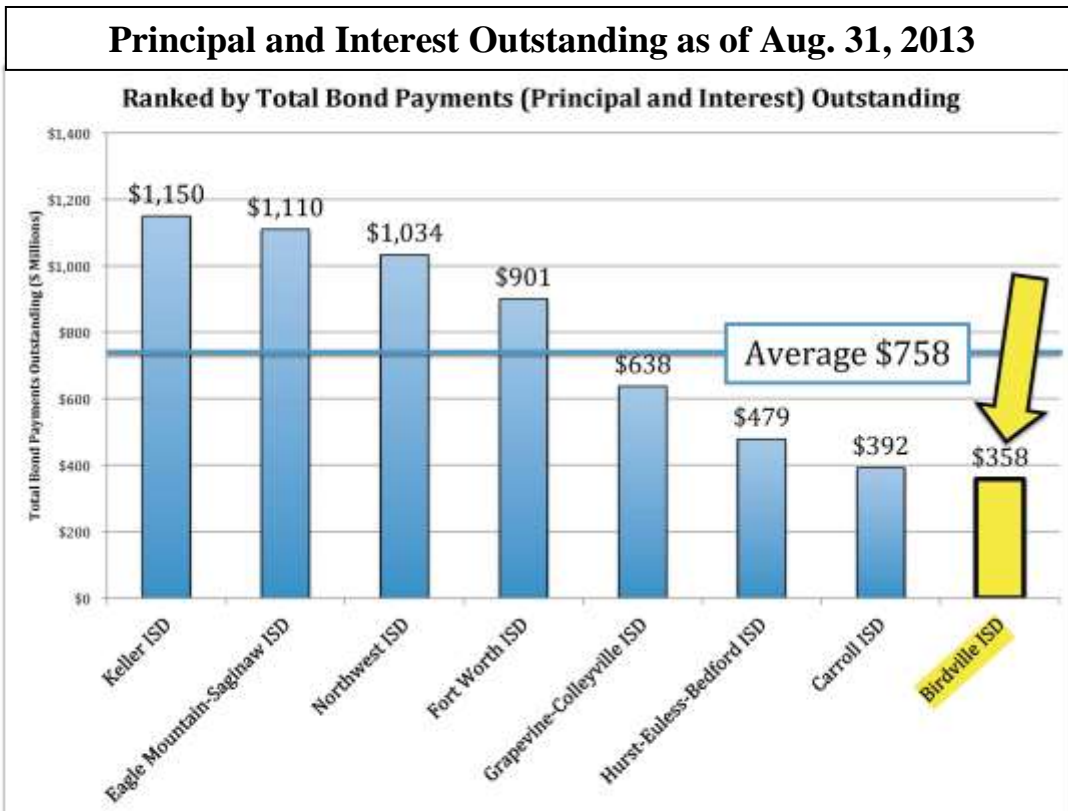
Yes. On Sept. 23, 2013, trustees approved the early repayment of a portion of the existing Series 2008-A Bonds. This saved taxpayers more than \$3.873 million in interest payments. Also, on Nov. 21, 2013, trustees approved the refinancing of unlimited refunding bonds, Series 2014. This refinance saved taxpayers more than \$1 million in interest payments.

Can bonds be repaid early?

Yes. BISD regularly looks for ways to save taxpayer dollars. Historically, the district refinances bonds as interest rates go down. This refinancing has saved taxpayers millions of dollars over the last 10 years. Also, in 2013, the district repaid early a portion of the Series 2008-A bonds. This saved taxpayers more than \$3.8 million in interest. This is a result of the district’s conservative financial nature.

How much debt does the district currently have?

On Nov. 4, 2014, the district’s current principal balance on bond debt will be approximately \$189 million. Total debt including interest is \$321 million. The district’s debt is from bond elections in 1996, 2005 and 2006. All bond obligations from 1986, 1990 and 1993 have been paid. Each year the district pays off some of its existing bonds. All current BISD bonds are scheduled to be paid off by 2032 with most being paid off in 2021.



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.

Why is BISD replacing tracks built last year?

BISD did not build any tracks in 2012. The 2006 bond provided tracks at each of the district's middle schools. The funds in the proposed bond are to resurface the tracks, which is part of the maintenance, safety, and security for those who use the tracks. Typically, tracks last six to eight years before needing to be resurfaced. This can vary by usage and weather conditions.

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 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.

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?

Bonds can only be used for capital improvements and related costs. They may not be used for personnel, utilities, and other such operating expenses.

How does the bond process work?

- Boards 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.

When will the work begin and be completed?

If voters approve the bond referendum in November 2014, 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 can work on any school site.

For The Academy at West Birdville, Birdville Elementary and North Richland Middle, it may 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.

Why does BHS need new gyms, additions, etc., when it's a smaller high school than the two others and the newest one?

Birdville High School opened in 1999 and is not the newest high school facility in the district. Richland High School was rebuilt in 2009, and that same year, Haltom High School received substantial additions and renovations.

Though Birdville’s enrollment is slightly smaller than Richland (2,006 for Birdville versus 2,174 for Richland), the number of students participating in Fine Arts and Athletics programs at Birdville is equal to, and sometimes larger than, Haltom and Richland high schools. The chart below provides participation numbers from the 2013-14 school year.

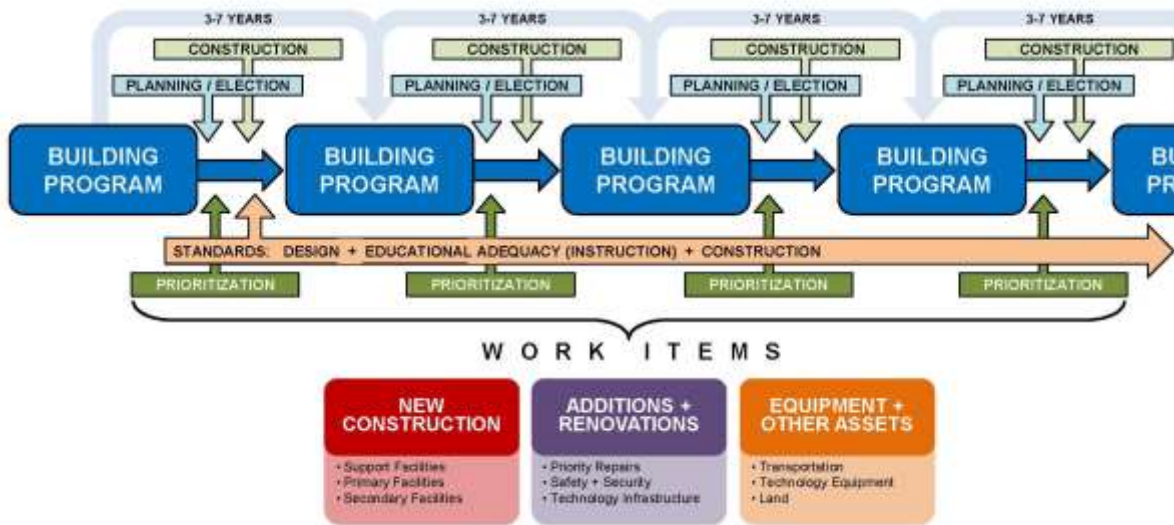
Enrollment:	Birdville	Haltom	Richland
Band	210	280	270
Choir	200	160	280
Athletics	More than 800	More than 800	More than 800

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.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING (IMPLEMENTING A BOND CYCLE)



Why were North Richland Middle, The Academy at West Birdville, and Birdville Elementary chosen for rebuilding versus others at this time?

There are a number of campuses the Committee could have put on this list.

- North Richland Middle
 - The 2013-14 enrollment was 892 students.
 - The cost to replace the campus vs. a major renovation is extremely high.
- Birdville Elementary
 - The 2013-14 enrollment was 437 students.
 - Irreversible structural issues exist which will not be resolved with “patching.”
- The Academy at West Birdville
 - Beyond North Richland Middle and Birdville Elementary, the final decision came down to Smithfield Elementary and West Birdville.
 - The 2013-14 enrollment at West Birdville was 714 students, and Smithfield Elementary was 422.
- At the end of the day, the Committee agreed to include West Birdville because priority one issues alone equal almost half of what it would cost to rebuild the campus.
- In the interim, the Committee designated significant dollars for Smithfield Elementary to provide an adequate learning environment until the next bond election.

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, science laboratories, technology and renovations on every campus. In addition, students currently in elementary and middle schools will be impacted from work done at their feeder schools.

Is BISD already built-out?

DEMOGRAPHICS FORECAST	
Three projected growth scenarios (2023)	
• Current enrollment (2013-14)	24,326
• High growth enrollment	33,943 (+9,617)
• Moderate growth enrollment	29,504 (+5,178)
• Low growth enrollment	26,200 (+1,874)
The bottom line ...	
• Birdville is an attractive community for first-time home buyers/BISD growth is inevitable	
• Housing development is coming – some single family; a lot of multi-family	
• There will be a significant amount of re-generation/re-population of built-out subdivisions	

Why do we need modular science laboratories?

Modular laboratories address current educational needs of our students based on science curriculum requirements from the state. This involves far more hands-on lab experiments. These modular laboratories will address the current deficiencies in lab space across BISD. The Committee decided to include modular science laboratories on campuses that might be rebuilt in the next 8 to 10 years. This keeps the district from building permanent laboratories that might have to be torn down in the future rebuilding of a facility.

What are the current ages of our facilities?

Campus	Year Built
Shannon Education Center	1947
Haltom High School	1988
Richland High School	2008 (Rebuilt)
Birdville High School	1998
Haltom Middle School	1955
North Richland Middle School	1962
Richland Middle School	1955
North Oaks Middle School	1965
Watauga Middle School	1968
Smithfield Middle School	1974
North Ridge Middle School	1988
Birdville Elementary	1955
David E. Smith Elementary	1953
W.T. Francisco Elementary	1958
Jack C. Binion Elementary	2007 (Rebuilt)
Alliene Mullendore Elementary	1955
Richland Elementary	1952
Smithfield Elementary	1953
Snow Heights Elementary	1958
Major Cheney Elementary at South Birdville	1952
O.H. Stowe Elementary	2007 (Rebuilt)
The Academy at West Birdville	1950
Holiday Heights Elementary	1965
Watauga Elementary	1965
Grace E. Hardeman Elementary	1970
W.A. Porter Elementary	1975
Academy at C.F. Thomas	1990
Foster Village Elementary	1979
North Ridge Elementary	1986
John D. Spicer Elementary	1990
Green Valley Elementary	1991
Walker Creek Elementary	2004

Why do taxes have to go up at all? Bonds should be paid off before other bonds are issued.

The following link provides details on state funding and bond indebtedness.

[How do we pay for BISD?](#)

BISD has avoided substantial bond debt because the district has patched and repaired to extend the life cycle of our facilities. This means that we have a wave of replacements over the next several years. This is why the district is structuring a long-term plan for repair and replacement of facilities.