



Wichita Public Schools 2000 Bond Issue

Quick Facts

- 92 school projects are part of the 5-year construction plan.
- 91 projects have been completed; Earhart Elementary will be completed in fall 2008. Originally scheduled for facility improvements, the Board of Education made the decision to completely rebuild Earhart on a site next to the current facility, bringing the total of reconstructed school facilities in the bond issue to six.
- District schools are now air conditioned; 67 schools now have air conditioning that didn't when the bond referendum was passed in April 2000.
- School improvements include:
 - o 1.2 million square feet of newly-constructed space
 - o 6 million square feet of existing space fully or partially renovated
 - o 30+ "safe rooms" constructed in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Association to serve dual purpose as both student space (gymnasiums, classrooms) and shelter from severe weather
 - o Two brand new schools added to the district in northeast Wichita: Stucky Middle School, constructed on land donated by Koch Industries, and Jackson Elementary
 - o Five reconstructed schools in Wichita's core area: Horace Mann, Allen, Enterprise, Linwood and Washington
 - o 500+ new classrooms
 - o 150+ new science labs in every middle and high school
 - o 20 new libraries, 13 more renovated
 - o 218 portable classroom buildings demolished

Financial Accountability

- \$284.5 million bond issue finished on time and on budget!
- All architectural firms, general contractors and sub-contractors employed for bond issue construction are from Wichita or south central Kansas.
- Low interest rates for bonds financed during this period will save taxpayers approximately \$49 million.
- Refinanced bonds will save taxpayers an additional \$3.3 million.
- In addition to bond funding, additional dollars were invested to support construction projects: \$41.6 million from district capital funds, more than \$5 million from FEMA to support construction of safe rooms, and \$31.4 million in facility weighting dollars from the state.

Survey Shows Community Approval

- Nearly 6,000 Wichita citizens responded to the public engagement survey commissioned by the Wichita Public Schools and conducted by Wichita State University in the fall of 2005.
- When asked about their level of approval for the results of bond issue construction, respondents indicated strong community support for the effort's very visible outcomes.

- **Science Labs** – 95.3% support
- **Increased or Improved Classroom Space** - 90.7% support
- **Infrastructure** – 94.4% support
- **Air-Conditioning** – 90.9% support
- **Reduce Classroom Health Risks** – 94% support

- **New and Renovated Libraries** – 93.8% support
- **Multi-Purpose Safe Rooms** – 93.1% support
- **Technology** – 93.5% support
- **Improved Access and Learning Opportunities for the Physically Disabled** – 93.3% support