

Earlham Community School District Bond Issue Facts

Special Election Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016



Proposed rendering of elementary classroom/competition gymnasium project, as viewed from the SE corner of the facility.

ECSD Mission
Statement



Empowering
innovative, adaptive
and resourceful
learners.

Key Facts

On February 2, 2016, a vote will be held in the ECSD for the purpose of building an addition that includes 5-6 classrooms, an expanded competition gym with seating for 1,112, four locker rooms, support space and a more secure main entrance. This vote would remove the existing portable building.

- ▶ Bond Amount: \$5 million
- ▶ Anticipated Construction Costs: \$4.98 million
- ▶ Expected Increase to Property Tax Rate: \$0
- ▶ Increased classroom and meeting space
- ▶ Increased security for students
- ▶ ADA compliant accessibility in gym
- ▶ Increased safety and seating capacity in gym
- ▶ Improved 21st century learning facilities

Informational Public Meeting

On January 20, an informational public meeting was held, during which Vitus Bearing from SVPA Architecture, Travis Squires from Piper Jaffray, and Gary Sinclair from PMA Financial Services, shared information about the plans and funding for the proposed project.

Watch a recording of this presentation at:

<https://thecube.com/e/597663>

Questions?

Contact Michael Wright, Superintendent, at 515-758-2214 or mwright@ecsdcards.com

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FAQs

Q: Why are you bringing this project to the voters now?

A: Interest rates are low, and construction costs are rising. We are in a position fiscally to complete the project without raising property tax rates.

Q: How much will this bond issue cost me as a taxpayer?

A: There will be no increase in current property tax rates.

Q: What is the need for safety and security upgrades?

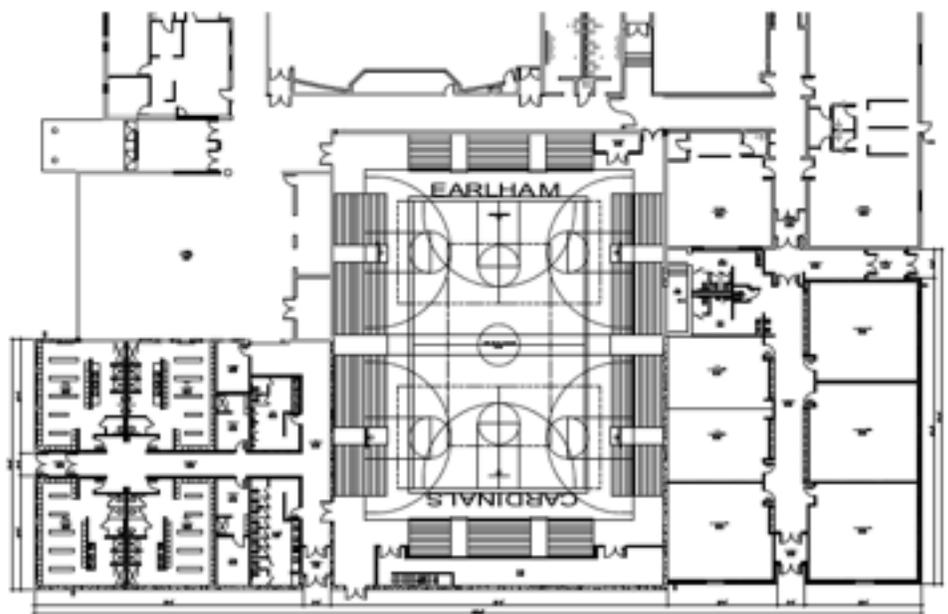
A: ECSD's top priority is to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff. Re-routing visitors through the main office will enhance our efforts to keep our students and staff safe.

Q: Why does the District want to improve facilities?

A: Our school is a vital part of our community. If we want Earlham to continue to grow and thrive, our schools must reflect our pride. Facilities are one piece of that pride. By providing our students with excellent learning facilities and opportunities, we are doing our part to promote our community.



Proposed rendering of elementary classroom/competition gymnasium project, as viewed from the SW corner of the facility.



Proposed blueprint for the interior layout of the elementary classroom/competition gymnasium project.

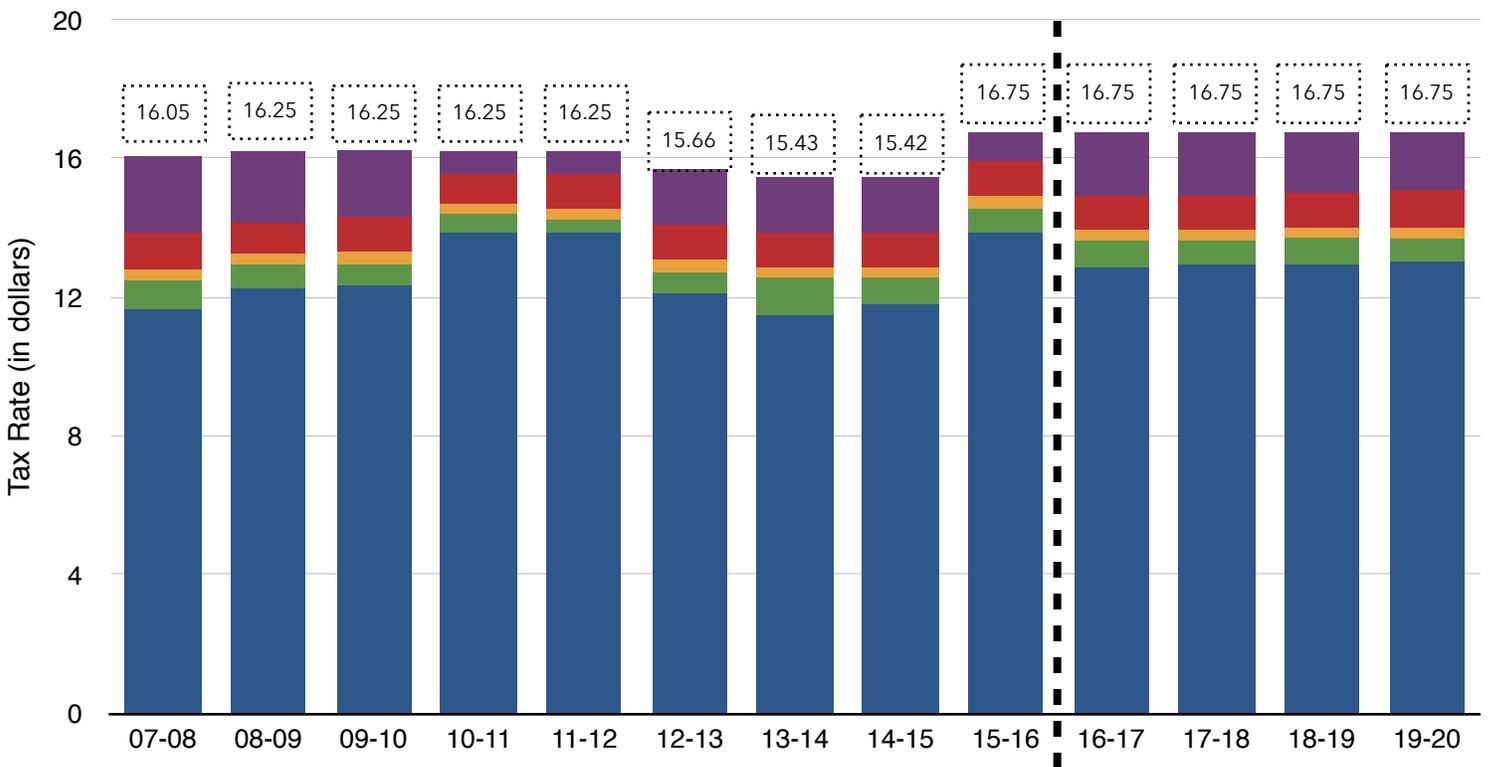
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ECSD Tax Levy Rates

The chart below displays how the ECSD School Board has adjusted property taxes for different funds in an effort to keep the overall property tax rate stable. If voters approve the proposed project, the district can keep the overall tax rate the same.

■ General Fund
 ■ Management Fund
 ■ PPEL Fund
 ■ Voted PPEL
 ■ Debt Service Fund



FAQs

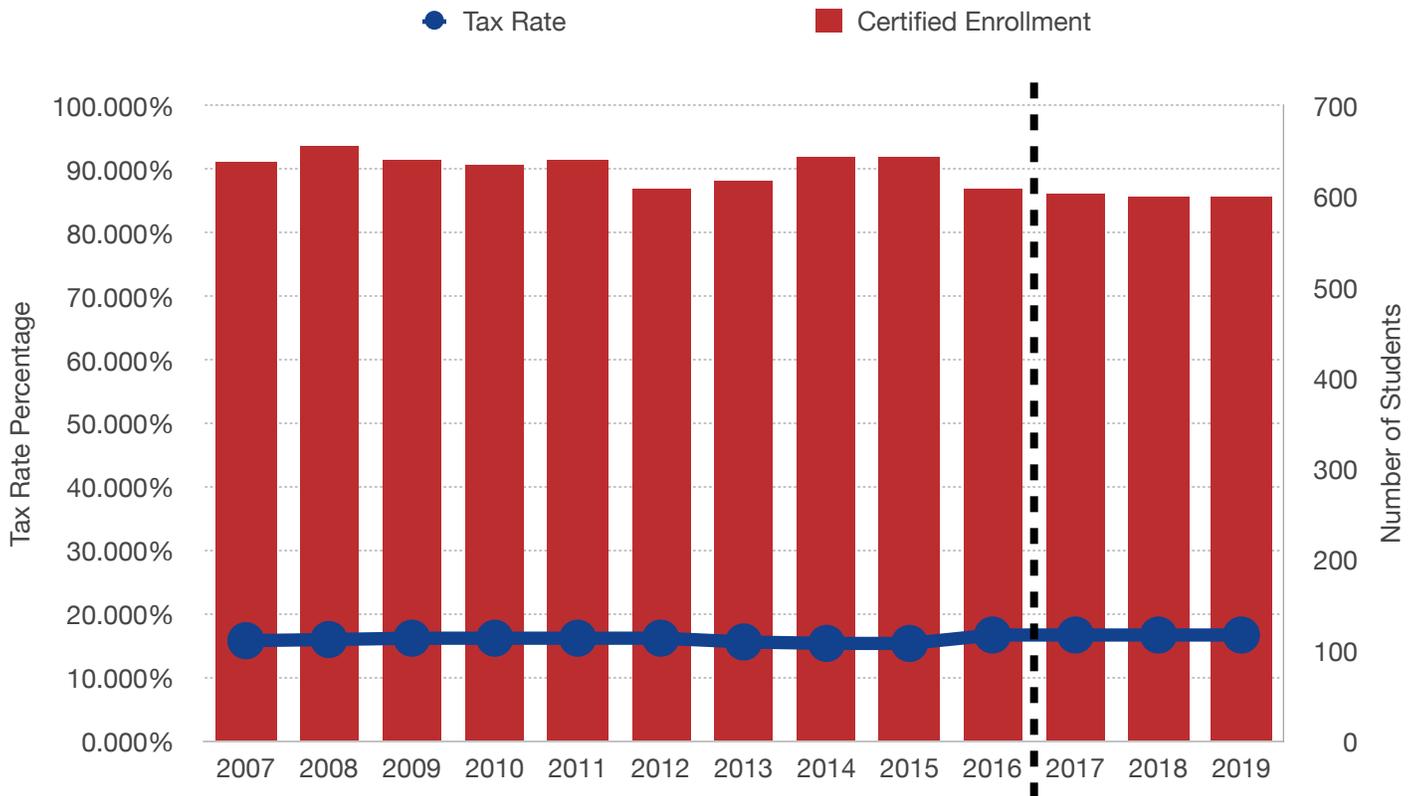
Q: Can a school use bond money to pay teachers salaries or pay employment-related expenses?

A: Absolutely not. State statutes stipulate how different school funds, or “pots of money”, including property taxes, can be spent by a school district. Only General Fund monies can be spent on teacher salaries, benefits, textbooks and supplies. The Management Fund is very restrictive in that it can be used to pay for property/liability insurance, unemployment and retirement benefits. PPEL Funds, Debt Service and Sales Tax monies are ONLY to be used for infrastructure improvement.

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The chart below displays historical and projected certified enrollment numbers and property tax rates for ECSD. By averaging enrollment numbers from the last five years, the School Board has conservatively estimated and planned for a slight decrease in enrollment over the next four years. Property tax rates would remain steady based on this projection.



FAQs

Q: What if construction bids come in higher than the bonded 5 million dollars?

A: The ECSD School Board could direct architects to try to re-evaluate the project to come up with more cost-effective plans without sacrificing quality. Additionally, the budget includes contingency funds built into the estimates to help plan for any unforeseen overages.

Itemized Cost Estimate for Proposed Project (Preliminary)

Sitework	\$122,647
Classroom Addition (7,200 SF)	\$1,226,470
Gymnasium & Locker Rooms (13,300 SF)	\$2,870,728
Safe Entry Upgrade	\$34,240
Fees, Reports, Furniture & Equipment, Portable Disposal, et al.	\$513,270
Construction Contingency (5.5%)	\$232,646
Total Estimated Cost	\$5,000,000

Earlham Community School District

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FAQs

Q: If the proposed referendum passes, what is the construction timeline?

A: To get competitive bids, we anticipate construction to begin during the of Spring 2017.

Q: What is needed for this referendum to pass?

A: A bond referendum must pass with a 60% supermajority vote.

Q: Who can vote on this issue?

A: Anyone who lives in the Earlham Community School District, is 18 years of age, and is registered to vote, can cast a ballot in this special election. A person who is not yet registered to vote can register at the polling place on election day by providing proof of identity and residency.

Q: If the referendum passes, can the list of construction projects be changed?

A: No. The district is obligated to construct only the specified projects.

Ballot and Voting Information

The ECSD Board of Education has called for a special election to submit to the voters of the School District the following proposition the purpose of which cannot be accomplished within the limit of one and one-quarter percent of the assessed value of the taxable property within the School District.

Shall the Board of Directors of the Earlham Community School District in the Counties of Dallas and Madison, State of Iowa, be authorized to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 to provide funds to construct, build, improve, furnish and equip an elementary classroom addition to the existing school facility, including related remodeling; to remodel, improve, repair and reconstruct the entrance to the existing building to include safety and security improvements; and to construct, build, furnish and equip an expansion of the current Elementary Gymnasium into a Competition Gymnasium, including restrooms and associated supporting spaces; and to improve the site?

Polls will be open from 7 am - 8 pm on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, for eligible voters in the school district to cast their ballots. Voting will take place at the Earlham Community Center.

Absentee voting is also available for this election.

Madison County Residents: Forms and information are available at the Madison County Auditor's Office in Winterset, online at http://forms.gmdsolutions.com/auditor/app_absentee_ballot.pdf

Dallas County Residents: Forms and information are available Dallas County Auditor's Office in Adel, online at <http://www.co.dallas.ia.us/government/auditor/get-an-absentee-ballot>

ECSD Vision Statement

To provide all learners with skills and diverse educational opportunities, to engage all learners in relevant, real-world experiences, and to develop learners' confidence, character, and perseverance so that they will positively impact their world.

