

New K-12 School FAQ

- 1) Has the Arkansas Department of Education dictated that a new K-12 absolutely has to be constructed?
 - a. No, this decision is a local decision for the longevity of the district and the current condition of the buildings.
- 2) When the discussion of constructing the new campus took place, what was the then estimated cost of construction.
 - a. The discussions on a new K-12 Campus dates back to August 2019. At that time, construction costs were estimated by the Division and Construction Managers at \$175-\$225/square foot. Since then, a global pandemic and inflation has escalated all costs in construction. Estimations today are between \$300-\$350/square foot.
- 3) Other than the consensus or feeling of common sense, how was the decision based to consolidate all grades into one campus?
 - a. This decision is based on fiscal prudence and longevity of the district.
- 4) Has there been a qualified study accomplished in keeping the elementary schools and possibly middle school on the cost feasibility of them keeping them at the current facilities including operation expenses? And only construct a facility for High School?
 - a. The Division of Academic Facilities did a Facility Condition Inspection on 11/13/2020 and determined that a new K-12 was the most prudent fiscal route to take, as the majority of all the buildings exceed the 65% threshold.
- 5) Has there been a study on the expected expenses of maintenance and operations excluding payroll and personnel to operate only a facility for High School? A new K-12?
 - a. Yes
- 6) Has there been a study to explore remodel of all three campuses? And wouldn't it be cheaper to remodel vs build new.
 - a. The cost of renovation on the majority of the buildings would be 65% or higher the cost of new construction, as the age of the buildings range from 1935-2010.
 - b. The long-term financial advantage will be seen in maintenance, transportation, food service and staffing
- 7) The Master Plan list square footage requirements and classroom requirements for a new school. We are not a new school. If we remodel an existing campus will a remodel be held to the same standards of a new school?
 - a. Yes, if you renovate a building by 20%, then all aspects of the building must be brought up to code/standard.
- 8) Will there be a sunset clause where the cost of building the facility will sunset and go away or will the mileage be asked to remain once the bonds of construction cost are paid off?

- a. All bond millages are dedicated for a certain “term” (normally 30 years) and those mills expire after that millage is paid off. Oftentimes a bond issue is refunded, extended and re-issued for a longer period of time. In this scenario, the millage extension must be approved by a vote of the patrons.
- 9) Should we build the new facility in a central location?
- a. The new K-12 should be constructed where traffic is and visibility. The Highway 65 corridor towards Harrison is the most viable location. Families driving by will see the new school and want their child to attend there. Placing a new school in a remote area just because it would be the central point between the three existing campuses, is not a logical decision. This is not a challenge that only OMSD is or has faced; other districts have gone through the exact same thing and been successful.
- 10) If the State moves to County Districts, will the school remain open?
- a. County Districts are more directed at Administration Change and not necessarily the closing of schools within that county and all going to one area.
- 11) If they do move to County Districts, we are a three county district, will the other two counties be responsible for the property tax increase or will it revert back to previous levels?
- a. If the State of Arkansas ever went to County School Districts, then the subsequent legislation related to that would determine the millages in each county. For counties that have multiple school districts in them (which is very common in Arkansas), each school has its own millage rate and it is the responsibility of that County Clerk to assign the correct millage rate to each patron’s assessment within that County.