

Investing in Learning. Harvesting Opportunity.

(Frequently Asked Questions) - FAQ Sheet April 7, 2026, No Tax Rate Increase Bond

Q. What does an Agriculture Learning Lab provide our students?

A. An Agriculture Learning Lab provides students with hands-on, real-world experiences that extend far beyond what can be taught in a traditional classroom. The lab becomes a powerful tool for preparing students for both college and career pathways in agriculture and related industries, while equipping them with the academic, technical, and professional skills necessary for postsecondary success.

Through experiential learning opportunities, students apply classroom knowledge in authentic settings, develop problem-solving and leadership skills, and gain exposure to high-demand careers. In partnership with FFA, the lab also strengthens leadership development, career readiness, and supervised agricultural experiences that connect learning directly to future goals.

Ultimately, an Agriculture Learning Lab is more than a facility; it is an investment in workforce development, student engagement, and the long-term success of every learner.

Q. What about the construction of a Greenhouse?

A. While we fully intend to expand our agriculture education program to include a fully functioning greenhouse as an additional hands-on learning lab, we do not want to overcommit the scope of the initial project and risk being unable to complete it responsibly.

We are exploring options to construct the greenhouse through grants, sponsorships, and other funding sources that would not impose an additional cost on our local taxpayers.

Q. Did the District solicit community input before placing the measure on the ballot?

A. Yes. As part of the Fall 2023 Long-Range Planning process, the District gathered input through community meetings, surveys, and roundtable discussions.

This feedback helped guide a two-phase facilities plan. Phase One was completed with the passage of the April 2024 bond. Phase Two focuses on upgrading facilities and expanding space to support the growth of the hands-on learning opportunities, including Agricultural Education and Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Q. Will the NO TAX RATE INCREASE bond issue change the tax rate?

A. No. The tax rate will remain the same whether the issue passes or fails.

Q. What will it cost?

A. Approval of the \$3 million April bond issue will not require an increase in the District's current debt service levy.

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Q. What is a bond issue?

A. A bond is voter authorization for a school district to borrow money and establish (or extend) a tax rate to repay that debt over time. Bond funds may be used only for capital improvements, such as facilities and equipment, and cannot be used for regular operating expenses, such as salaries or supplies.

This bond would not increase the current tax levy but would extend the District's existing bond.

Q. What will the cost be for individual taxpayers if the issue is passed?

A. Thanks to sound financial management, the District can seek voter approval for this bond without raising taxes. This is the result of responsible stewardship by past Boards of Education and superintendents, including refinancing bonds at lower interest rates and making early principal payments. The District will continue carefully monitoring debt and interest rates to maximize taxpayer savings.

Q. What is the financing proposal?

A. The Board of Education is seeking voter approval on April 7, 2026, for a \$3,000,000 general obligation bond issue that would extend, but not increase, the current \$1.0051 debt service tax levy.

Q. What would happen if the no-tax-rate-increase bond does not pass?

A. While the District would continue maintaining existing facilities, construction of the proposed Agricultural Learning Lab would not occur. As a result, the planned expansion of hands-on learning opportunities in agriculture, construction, mechanics, metalworking, and welding would not move forward.

Q. How can this be called a no-tax-rate-increase bond issue?

A. The current \$1.0051 debt service levy is sufficient to repay both existing bonds and the proposed \$3,000,000 in new bonds by extending the levy for a limited period, without increasing the rate. This is possible due to growth in assessed valuation and interest savings from prior refinancing.

Q. Can the District pay off the bonds early to save interest?

A. Yes. The bonds will include optional redemption (call) provisions, allowing the District to prepay them without penalty if fund balances allow. These provisions also allow refinancing in the future if interest rates decline.