

Priority Ranking



Priority Definitions

Students' ability to learn, excel, and be successful

Includes scope items that lend themselves directly to enhancing the academic success and positive personal growth of students. Are we able to be prepare students for success in a modern, 21st Century world?

Safety, security, & accessibility

Includes scope items designed to keep students, staff and visitors safe and secure from individuals wanting to do harm, but also includes safety and security from other threats or emergencies, such as fire or weather and other unsafe physical conditions. Accessibility refers to all the items consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and how that impacts general access to all facilities, as well as safety and security for those with disabilities.

Budget sustainability

Ensuring that solutions: can be accomplished within a balanced district budget; don't compromise student programming or other district needs and functions; or cause the district to deficit spend.

Healthy & comfortable environment

Addresses educational environmental variables including: indoor air quality; ventilation; temperature; humidity; and sound and light levels. Indoor air quality affects health in a direct manner; however, temperature and humidity can also directly impact health and comfort when extremely hot or cold; and sound and light can have a direct impact on mental health.

Flexibility & quality of learning environment

Includes the physical learning environment and physical spaces where learning takes place. It addresses whether these areas are suitable to accomplish the learning objectives to the fullest extent and includes items such as: the space per student available in the classroom; the general layout and flow of the learning environment; the equipment and resources available to teachers and students; and the ability for staff and students to function in the intended way today and be flexible for changes in the future.

School facility equity

Addresses the need for all students to have an equal opportunity to learn and succeed to the highest degree regardless of which school they attend. Equity does not mean equal – all schools will have some physical differences and every teacher is a unique individual. Every student should, however, have the same opportunities to experience learning to the same level, with similar resources, and the same opportunities for success.

Cost & tax impact

Addresses the need to honor the tax impact when completing various scope items and insure both that there is a good return on investment to the school district and taxpayer and that a successful referendum is not put in jeopardy by asking for too high of a tax increase.

Operational cost control

Addresses the connection between facilities and general school district operations and the need to consider the effect any scope items have on the operational budget. Some scope items will have a more positive effect on the operating budget than other scope items (e.g. LED lighting reduces electrical consumption and utility costs, thus freeing up operating budget to use in other student or staff focused ways).

Student & community pride

Simply put, are all facilities something that community members can be proud of? This includes the physical condition inside and out, as well as the ability to deliver high quality teaching and maximize student learning and personal growth.

Welcoming and aesthetically pleasing facilities

Are facilities welcoming to students, staff and the general public? Do facilities reflect the actual commitment and support the community has for education in Grand Forks? Are facilities inspiring to staff and students to be engaged in quality teaching and learning?