



# FACT SHEET

ELECTION DAY | SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

[www.gfschools.org/referendum](http://www.gfschools.org/referendum)

On September 28, 2021, residents will vote to invest in building infrastructure at Grand Forks Public Schools.

## Our Story

- In 2013, the North Dakota Legislature took on a higher portion of school district and county funding.
- In concert with the district losing 10 additional mills to levy for the building fund, the net loss just in the building fund alone equates to \$25 million over the last 10 years.
- As a result, the district has used \$11.5 million out of its general (operational) fund to respond to catastrophic failures, including:
  - Replacing boilers at Grand Forks Central, Nathan Twining, Phoenix, Elroy Schroeder, and South schools.
  - Mitigating water/flooding issues at Viking and West (now offline) elementary schools.
  - Skylight leaks/mold at Red River High School.
  - Bricks falling off the 1980s addition of Grand Forks Central High School.
  - Mitigating an indoor pool condensation issue at Grand Forks Central High School that could cost millions of dollars to repair.

## Moving Forward

- COVID-19 has illustrated the need for quality air in our facilities with many of our schools' HVAC systems incapable of facilitating compliance with today's Indoor Air Quality (AIQ) standards. This includes the introduction of fresh air, proper filtration, and air conditioning.
- **An additional 10 mills will generate \$2.5 million per year for the purpose of:**
  - Cease using General Fund dollars for routine building projects.
  - Utilize general fund proceeds for the intended purposes:
    - Student programs,
    - Learning materials,
    - Competitive compensation to attract, develop, and retain high-quality employees.

## On the Ballot - One Question

**Increase the building fund mill levy by 10 mills.**

**An additional 10 mills would generate \$2.5 million per year for the purpose of:**

- Cease using General Fund dollars for routine building projects.
  - Utilize the general fund for intended purposes:
    - Student programs,
    - Learning materials,
    - Competitive compensation to attract, develop, and retain high-quality employees.

**Monthly tax impact: \$3.75 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.**



Visit the Tax Information tab on our Referendum Website ([www.gfschools.org/referendum](http://www.gfschools.org/referendum)) to view our Tax Calculator and determine the potential tax impact on your property.

## GFPS By the Numbers

- Square Feet: 1.7 million square feet
- Facilities: 3 High, 4 Middle, 10 Elementary, 1 Administrative
- 790 Maintenance Projects identified and counting, including:
  - Accessibility (ADA),
  - Interior spaces/finishes,
  - Life safety (fire alarm systems),
  - Electrical systems,
  - Mechanical systems,
  - Programmatic (ex: proposed additions),
  - Energy management,
  - Technology (public address systems, electronic locks, etc.),
  - Exterior (roofs, windows, etc.).

# Use of COVID-19 and ESSER-Related Funding

- 1:1 Technology Device Upgrade: \$2 million
- Ben Franklin Elementary School: window project, phase 3 completed in August.
- Century Elementary School: chiller, boilers, and gym air handling unit (AHU) replacement project.
- Grand Forks Central High School: cooling tower replacement project, substantial completion in September 2021.
- Red River High School: replaced 12 air units, 88 heat pumps, 3 boilers, 4 AHUs, 8 pumps.
- MSEC HVAC project: Replaced failing residential furnaces

**\$12 million in facilities investment through September 2024.**

## Other Revenue Opportunities

- State Per Pupil Aid increases 1% each in Year 1 and Year 2: \$1.3 million total
- Budget Reduction: \$4 million realization.
- Slight property tax increase through home valuation: 2% (\$410,000).
- Impact Aid formula change: \$350,000 in year 1 with annual increases over 6 years.
- Elimination of early retirement: \$400,000 yearly with annual increases for 4 years.
- District grant writer revenue: \$6 million over the past two years.
- New Altru partnership: \$750,000 over 10 years.
- CTE Career Impact Academy grant application: community partnerships.
- A successful Building Fund mill increase: \$2.5 million yearly.

# Building Fund Mill Levy Facts



North Dakota Century Code allows for a **20 mill** building fund.



Grand Forks Public Schools is currently authorized for a **10 mill** building fund.



Local taxpayers would need to approve an increase to 20 mills.

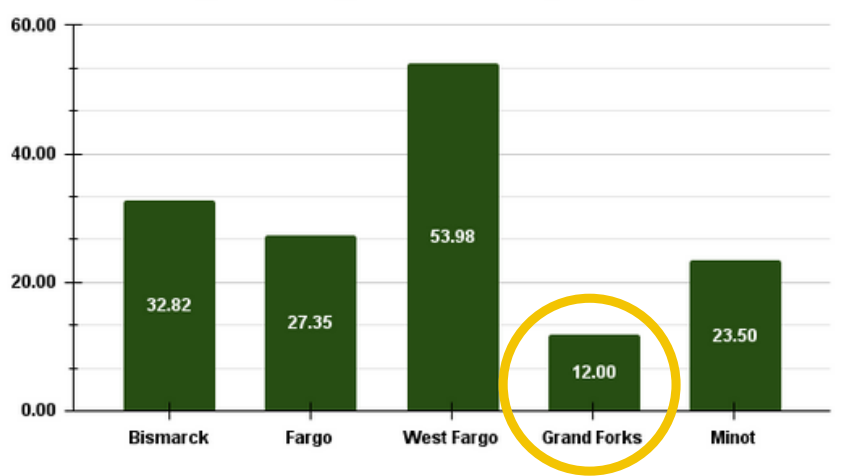


10 additional mills in the Building Fund would generate approximately **\$2.5 million** in revenue annually.



Grand Forks has the **lowest** facility-related mill levy and corresponding property tax revenue.

**Building & Sinking Fund Mill Levy Comparison**



The Grand Forks School District receives a **smaller percentage** of property tax than **all comparably sized districts** in North Dakota.

Fargo	53%
Bismarck	46%
West Fargo	46%
Minot	40%
<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>31%</b>

