



# USD 458 Bond 2018



## Frequently Asked Questions

At a special meeting on June 13, the USD 458 Board of Education adopted a resolution to move forward with a two question \$57.1 million bond issue that will be up for vote by mail-in ballot from August 17th to September 6th. The projects listed below will **NOT increase our mill levy**, due to the growth happening in and around our community!

### What are the Bond 2018 projects on which we will be voting?

The **first question (\$51.6 million)** will ask you to vote YES or NO for:

- Construction of a new early childhood education center
- Construction of two new elementary schools
- Addition of 14-16 classrooms and a performing arts center to Basehor-Linwood Middle School
- Securing the entrance of Glenwood Ridge Elementary school
- Renovations to existing District facilities

The **second question (\$5.5 million)** will ask you to vote YES or NO for:

- Construction of a multipurpose building at BLHS consisting of classrooms, a wrestling room and locker rooms
- Improvements to athletic facilities, including renovations to the BLHS football stadium
- Addition of tennis court facilities

### Why are there two questions on the ballot?

The first reason there are two questions is that when we were submitting information to the County Clerk, we were unsure if our growth in valuation would keep the mill levy flat.

Second, our most pressing need is classroom space due to growth and keeping class sizes smaller. Because of the size of our high school, we will be jumping to 5A classification, which increases the need for upgrades to some of our athletic facilities.

### Why did the Board decide to put this up for election in September?

The USD 458 Board of Education discussed with architects and our Bond underwriters and realized that if the Bond were to go up for election in January, or any time next year, we would not have students in the new buildings UNTIL the 2021-2022 school year.

### What is the timing if Bond 2018 passes?

If Bond 2018 passes this September, we will begin the selection process for the Construction Manager At-Risk. Construction would begin as soon as possible after all plans are in place, which means that our new elementary schools and early childhood center would, ideally, open in time for the 2020-2021 school year.

### Do we really need two new elementary schools?

It's no secret that the Basehor-Linwood School District is growing! With four major new housing developments at Center Point, Tomahawk Valley, Falcon Lakes and Prairie Gardens, there is the potential of 200 new homes in Basehor within the next two years.

Our Kindergarten Round Up last spring tells us we're on track to hit the largest kindergarten class ever with nearly 200 students pre-enrolled in 2018-2019. For comparison, last year's kindergarten class was 172 students.

Kansas State Department of Education Audited Headcount numbers since 2013:

- 2013 - 2,200 students
- 2014 - 2,339 students
- 2015 - 2,415 students
- 2016 - 2,468 students
- 2017 - 2,544 students
- 2018 - 2,624 students

This is an average growth of over 3% per year!

### Where will the two new elementary schools be built?

Although land has not yet been acquired, the plan is to build one elementary building between 24/40 and Parallel, and move Linwood Elementary to a new building farther east along Hwy. 32. This will help alleviate overcrowding at Glenwood Ridge Elementary.

# USD 458 Bond 2018 Frequently Asked Questions

{Find out more information at <http://www.usd458.org!>}

## Why hasn't the District already purchased land for the new elementary buildings?

The District plans to wait until after the election to purchase the land, as it would then be eligible for nearly 20% State Aid.

## What happens to the current Linwood Elementary building if this passes?

USD 458 will be **repurposing** the current Linwood Elementary School for use by the Tonganoxie/Basehor-Linwood Special Education Cooperative for programs like Choices and New Beginnings.

## Where will attendance boundaries shift to for elementary students?

Good question! Once the locations of the buildings are determined, we should know more!

## What is an early childhood education center and why do we need one?

The early childhood education center would allow us to offer fee-based preschool for 4 year olds going into kindergarten the following year.

It would also house our 3-5 year old special education programs and provide a space for our Parents As Teachers.

The District is considering a daycare in this building, as well, allowing staff to utilize childcare services for which they would pay. We are looking at this as a perk to recruit and retain staff.

## Why do we need a performing arts center at BLMS?

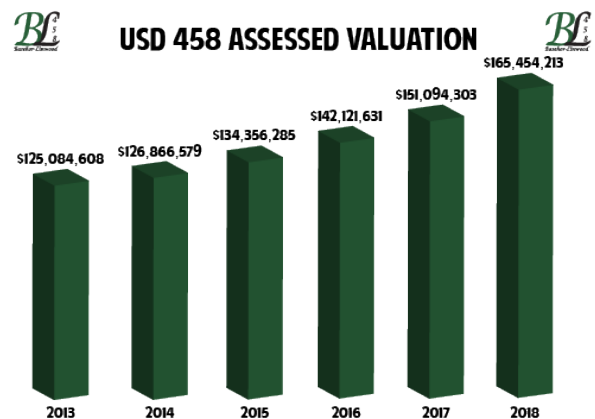
The District currently has one auditorium to facilitate the needs of six schools and the community. An additional performing arts center at BLMS would provide space for the demands of school and community performances (especially with two new buildings), as well as serve as a close location for Glenwood Ridge Elementary School and the new Linwood Elementary School events.

## If the Board tightened its Non-Resident Policy, would we need two new elementary schools?

Yes. In the 2018-2019 school year, USD 458 has 100 non-resident students enrolled in the district. 44 of those students are children of our employees, which means the rest account for 2% of our total number of students. Even if we eliminated EVERY non-resident student, it would not reduce our overall number of teaching positions or use of classroom space.

## If this is a no mill increase Bond, how is the District paying for it?

Because Basehor is growing with several new housing developments, our USD 458 Assessed Valuation increased by over \$14 million this year to \$165,454,213. With this valuation, and a conservative increase estimated in each of the next few years, our bond underwriters, PiperJaffray, are confident that we can keep the mill levy flat.



## What happens if Bond 2018 doesn't pass?

Because of the inevitable growth in our Basehor-Linwood School District over the next few years, the Board would likely propose another Bond in 2019. However, this timeline will quite possibly require us to look at temporary facilities for our incoming kindergarten students for the 2020-2021 school year, considerably increased class sizes in our current buildings, or even the re-drawing of elementary boundaries. Even if a bond passes in 2019, we would not be able to have students in new buildings until the 2021-2022 school year, one year later than Bond 2018 plans allow.

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## Mail-In Ballot

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why is the Bond 2018 vote by mail-in ballot?

Because the resolution was adopted in June, it was too late to get on the November ballot. In addition, mail-in ballot elections are more accessible and allow for more participation from residents.

#### How do I receive my ballot in the mail?

Every **active** voter will receive a ballot at the mailing address provided through their voter registration file by August 16th. To check to see if you are registered, and to make sure your current address is correct, visit <https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do>.

#### What should I do if I do not receive my ballot or make a mistake, damage or lose my ballot?

You may request a ballot or a replacement ballot from the County Clerk's office at the Leavenworth County Courthouse by calling 913.684.0421. If you do not receive your ballot in the mail by August 22nd, please contact the County Clerk's office.

#### When must the county clerk receive my ballot to be counted?

We are recommending that you mail your ballot by Friday, August 31st to ensure delivery to the courthouse on time! You can personally deliver to the Leavenworth County Courthouse up until noon on September 6th.

#### Where can I keep up-to-date on the latest Bond 2018 news?

We plan to host community meetings in August, and to present at various other meetings and back-to-school events. There is a Bond 2018 page on our District website (<http://www.usd458.org>), and we will continue to post information on our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/BasehorLinwoodUSD458>).

You can always call the Basehor-Linwood District Office for any additional questions at 913.724.1396!

