

2022 Bond Election

**INNOVATION.
OPPORTUNITY.
EXCELLENCE.**



INNOVATION. OPPORTUNITY. EXCELLENCE.

Why a Bond Election?

- ★ The proposed projects and improvements for the Auburn-Washburn school community are in direct response to the needs consistently shared during 30 strategic planning meetings held with stakeholder groups from October 2019 – January 2020. The needs identified include:
- ★ Double the number of 3- to 4-year-olds attending early childhood education from 200 to more than 400 students.
- ★ Create opportunity and space for students by building a second middle school to create two ideal-size middle schools with student enrollment of 720 students (sixth-eighth grades) from our current middle school with student enrollment of 960 students (seventh-eighth grade) that is the largest in the state. The transition of 6th graders to middle school also relieves capacity concerns at each elementary school.
- ★ Provide space, technology and experience to students in marketable career choices through an innovative, industry-standard Career and Technical Education addition at WRHS.
- ★ Provide new and repurposed space to advance instruction and programming and better meet social-emotional needs for all students through projects and improvements at each school (elementary, middle and high).
- ★ Continue facility maintenance excellence by making improvements that reduce operating costs, enhance safety and provide flexibility in the annual capital outlay process for school-specific upgrades.



Several years ago the Board of Education knew a bond election would be needed. Therefore, over the last five years, they decreased the mill levy rate from a 5-year average of 53.783 to 50.443. That 3.34 mill reduction saved taxpayers \$6.40 per month in property taxes on a home valued at \$200,000. The mill levy is currently at 50.00 mills.

Anticipated cost for owner of \$200,000 home:

	Bond Amount	% of Total	Mill Levy	Property Taxes
QUESTION 1	\$145,000,000	90.625%	7.207	\$13.81 per month
QUESTION 2	\$15,000,000	9.375%	0.746	\$1.42 per month
COMBINED TOTAL	\$160,000,000	100%	7.953	\$15.23 per month

Visit www.usd437.net/bond2022 for more information.

TWO-QUESTION BALLOT

A two-question ballot will be mailed to registered voters on March 23, 2022, and completed ballots must be returned to the Shawnee County Election Office by noon on April 12, 2022.

QUESTION 1: Not to exceed \$145 million		
Improvements	Cost	% of Total
• Add early childhood classrooms and repurpose elementary spaces	\$30 million	21%
• Build a second middle school, update WRMS, transition 6th grade to middle school	\$64 million	44%
• Add innovative CTE center and co-curricular space to WRHS	\$35 million	24%
• Capital outlay needs, safety upgrades, building maintenance	\$16 million	11%

QUESTION 2: Not to exceed \$15 million		
• Build a multi-use community pool at WRHS	\$15 million	100%



NE Kansas District Tax Rates



Among school districts in NE Kansas, Auburn-Washburn’s tax rate ranks in **the bottom 25%**.

With passage of both bond questions, Auburn-Washburn’s rate would still be in the bottom half of area school tax rates.

The Auburn-Washburn School District has the lowest mill levy rate among Shawnee County school districts.

QUESTION 1 - Not to exceed \$145 million

EARLY CHILDHOOD

The goal is to double early childhood enrollment. Our current capacity is 200 3- and 4-year-old students enrolled in our early childhood program but the need is much greater than that. The plan is to add the following early childhood classrooms:

- 6 at Pauline Central
- 2 at Indian Hills
- 2 at Auburn
- 2 at Wanamaker
- 2 at Jay Shideler
- Maintain 6 currently at Farley

ELEMENTARY SPACE

The goal is to transition sixth grade students to middle school to better meet their educational needs and increase capacity at each elementary school. The sixth grade classrooms, and other areas in each elementary school, would be repurposed to include collaborative spaces and areas dedicated to meeting social-emotional student needs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Washburn Rural Middle School is the largest middle school in Kansas (960 students). The goal is to build a second middle school, transition sixth grade students to each middle school, and have two ideal-sized middle schools. By building a second middle school, the enrollment in each middle school with grades 6 – 8 would be 720 students. Grade level pods currently have 480 students, but with two middle schools, grade level pods would decrease to 240 students. Middle school students would have more opportunities for engagement in activities.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The goal is to build an innovative, industry-standard Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center on the northwest corner of Washburn Rural High School. A new CTE center used by students district-wide would provide new and expanded opportunities for students to gain skills and experiences that can be applied in the workforce. Conversations are taking place on how students can partner with local businesses for mentorship and internships.

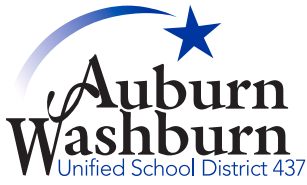
CAPITAL & SAFETY NEEDS

The goal is to ensure students have safe, well-maintained, and efficient schools to attend while protecting property values for Auburn-Washburn patrons.

QUESTION 2 - Not to exceed \$15 million

MULTI-USE COMMUNITY POOL

The goal is to add a 6-8 competitive lane swimming pool that has a zero-depth entry on one side. During the school day, the pool would be used by physical education classes and students with special needs. After school, the pool would be used by the WRHS swim program for practices and competitions. After hours, when the pool is not being used by WRHS, it would be available for community organizations (swim lessons, swim teams, senior citizens, etc.).



Shuler Education Center

5928 Southwest 53rd Street

Topeka, Kansas 66610-9451

www.usd437.net/bond2022

Please Vote!

Innovation. Opportunity. Excellence.

MARK THE DATE!

March 22, 2022

Last day to register to vote.

March 23, 2022

Ballots mailed to registered voters.

April 12, 2022 by 12 PM

Ballots due to Shawnee County Election Office.

