

PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2026 REFERENDUM



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To learn more, visit
isd477.org/referendum

Referendum Video



OUR COMMITMENT TO EVERY STUDENT

Princeton Public Schools prepares students for success in an ever-changing world — whether they go to college, attend a technical school, or start working after graduation.

To give our students the best foundation for their future, we need to make sure our schools have the best staff, classrooms, resources, and learning environments.



EDUCATION IS EVOLVING – SO ARE OUR NEEDS

Education and career pathways are changing, but many of our classrooms were built for another era and have not kept pace with student needs. For several years, Princeton Public Schools has thoughtfully planned for investments in our schools that best meet our students' needs and support the future of our community.



The classrooms and tools our students rely on are outdated, undersized, and require significant improvements to meet safety, accessibility, and educational standards.

THE MAY REFERENDUM

On Tuesday, May 12, Princeton Public School District voters will consider a bond referendum to make critical investments in our classrooms, school infrastructure and technology. The **single ballot question** includes:



A \$51.35 million building bond

- Replace and modernize Career and Technical Education (CTE) spaces
- Renovate outdated classrooms and science labs
- Address overcrowding and accessibility challenges
- Update aging infrastructure such as boilers and roofs



A \$750,000/year capital projects levy (tech levy)

- Fund essential classroom technology to support how students learn today
- Support devices, software, infrastructure, and technology staff

THE PROCESS



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Though the referendum proposed in November 2025 was not approved, **our needs remain.**
- After the November vote, the school board considered community feedback, explored other options to address our needs, and determined that the **Roaring Forward investment plan is still the best path forward for supporting our students, district, and community.**
- That is why the school board voted to present voters with a bond referendum once again on May 12, 2026.
- The **May 2026** plan is nearly identical to the previous proposal. The only change from November is a slightly **reduced tax impact.**

On February 3, 2026 the board approved a resolution to call for a special election in May.

OUR CHALLENGES



THE SHOP AREAS & INDUSTRIAL TECH

TECH EDUCATION

Our shops are 55 years old and too undersized to meet student demand.

- The size of the shops limits the number of students who can enroll in classes.
- The shop areas have safety concerns, such as:
 - Poor ventilation
 - Overcrowding
 - Asbestos in the learning areas
 - Inadequate lighting



HEALTHCARE AND CNA

HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

We currently do not have dedicated classrooms and equipment for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training.

- CNA students must travel to Milaca Schools for hands-on training.
- There are **only five spots** available in the program and a long waiting list.



CULINARY EDUCATION

Culinary spaces are not equipped or designed to train students for the skills needed to work in professional kitchens.

Without exposure to industry-grade equipment and setups, students miss the opportunity to learn techniques, workflows, and safety practices that are essential for careers in culinary arts.



AGING CLASSROOMS

Since 1964, our student population has doubled, and our classrooms no longer reflect how education works today.

- Classrooms were built for an era when learning was limited to sitting in rows and listening to lectures.
- Current lighting is outdated and dark, making it harder for students to stay engaged in learning.



CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

Technology has become essential to today's careers – and classrooms and curriculum are adapting.

- We must provide the right technology and learning spaces so our classrooms and Tiger Career Academies can prepare students for the future.



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

Most spaces at our high school are over 60 years old.

1

The high school building's boilers are original to the 1964 building.

2

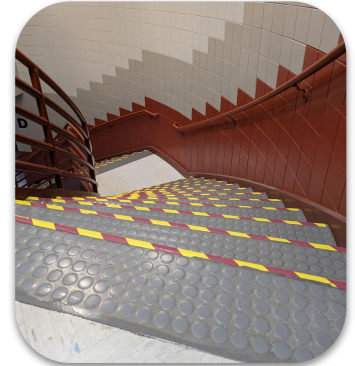
Stairwells and hallways at the high school are undersized, narrow, and poorly lit, creating safety concerns.

3

Locker rooms do not meet accessibility and space requirements for students.

4

The middle school roof is at the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced.



THE PLAN



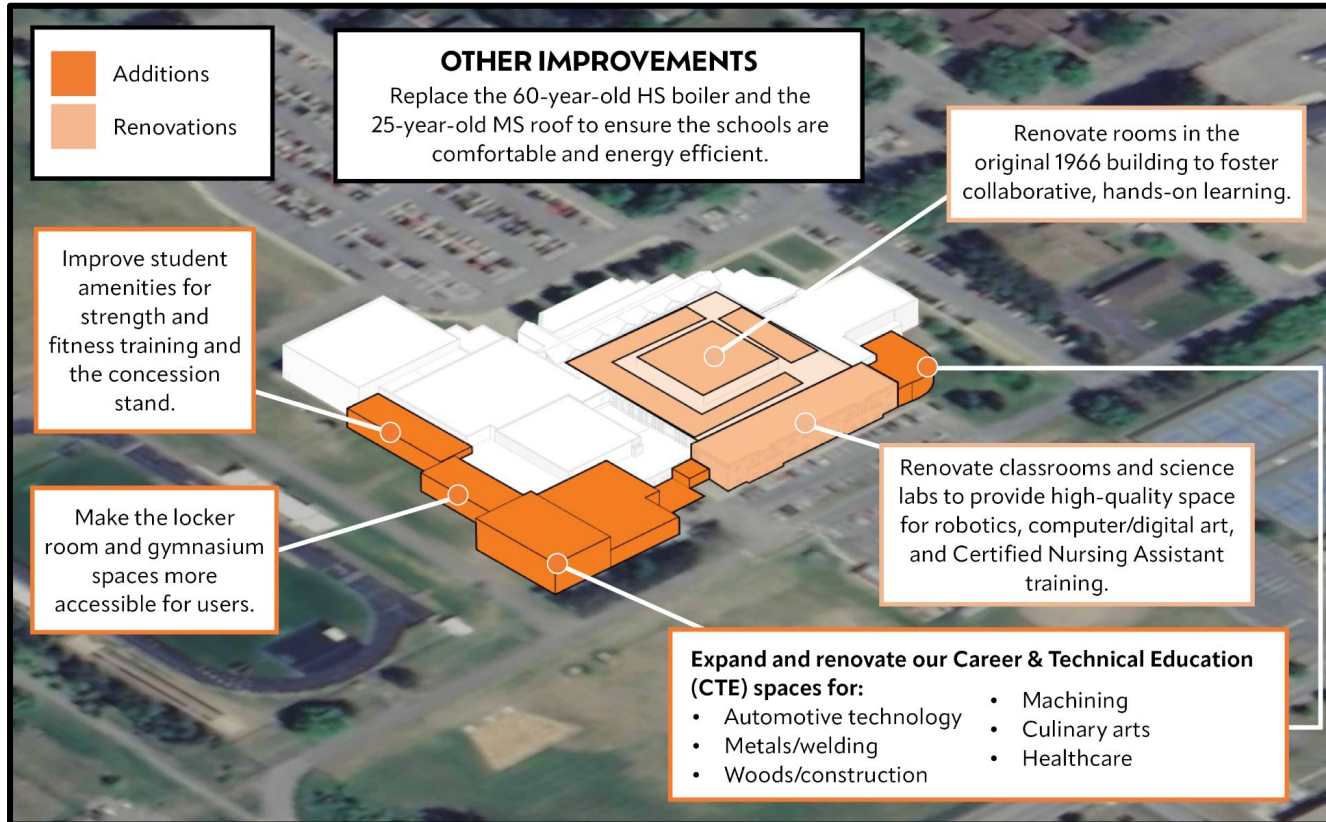
IF THE REFERENDUM IS APPROVED...

The plan would direct \$51.35 million to Career and Technical Education spaces, classrooms, and building infrastructure, along with \$750,000 annually over the next decade for essential classroom technology. The only change from November is a slightly reduced tax impact.

If approved by voters, this proposed referendum will:

- **Create new space and equipment** for Career and Technical Education.
- **Update core education spaces** that support our innovative curriculum.
- **Invest in maintenance** to keep our schools comfortable and energy-efficient.
- **Improve spaces** used by all students, community members, and visitors.
- **Provide funding for technology** essential to operating classrooms and for career-specific learning.

CONCEPTUAL PLAN: MAIN LEVEL



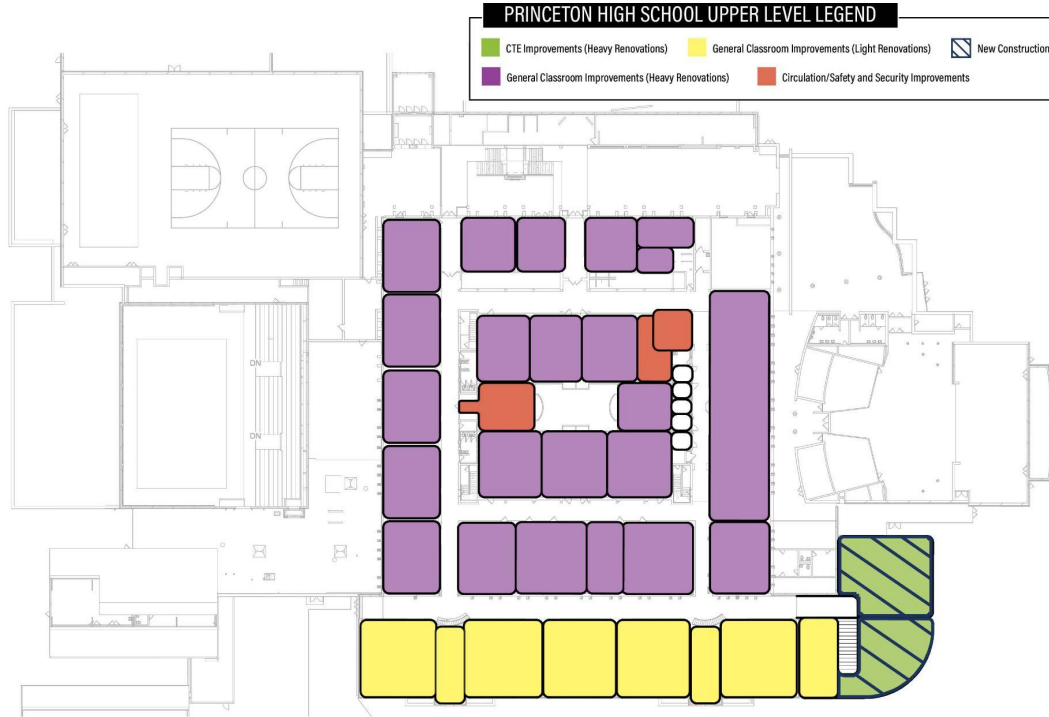
Please note that this image is conceptual and not finalized. If approved, the design process would involve stakeholder input.

CONCEPTUAL PLAN: MAIN LEVEL



Please note that this image is conceptual and not finalized. If approved, the design process would involve stakeholder input.

CONCEPTUAL PLAN: SECOND LEVEL

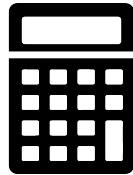


Please note that this image is conceptual and not finalized. If approved, the design process would involve stakeholder input.

TAX IMPACT

- If approved on Tuesday, May 12, the proposed referendum would result in a tax increase of **\$14/month** for the owner of an average-value home in the Princeton Public School district (approx. \$350,000), starting in 2027.
 - Agricultural property is assessed at the value of their homestead plus one acre of land.
- If approved, the tech levy would remain in place for 10 years. The building bond would remain in place for 20 years.

TAX RELIEF IS AVAILABLE: MN offers multiple tax credits and deferrals that can reduce the tax impact of an approved referendum...seniors, low income, and more.



To estimate your specific tax impact, use our referendum tax calculator at [isd477.org/referendum.](https://isd477.org/referendum)

A Financing Plan That Helps Keep Taxes Lower

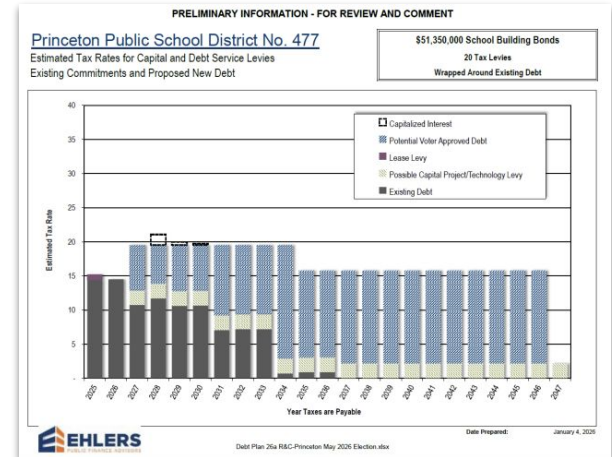
- The district can keep the estimated tax increase low (\$14/mo for average value home) by using a wraparound financing model.
- This means the district would start to pay for new improvements while finishing payments on earlier school bonds. Many Minnesota school districts use this approach because it helps keep school taxes steadier over time while still allowing districts to make needed improvements.

Here is how the financing plan works:

Today: The district is paying off the 2014 bonds that helped build the new primary school. There are about seven years left on those payments.

After the 2014 bonds are paid off: Those tax dollars will shift to paying for the new Roaring Forward bonds, helping keep the increase around \$14 per month for an average-value home instead of creating a larger jump in school taxes.

If voters approve the plan: The district begins paying for the new improvements while finishing the 2014 bonds.



IF THE REFERENDUM DOES NOT PASS...

Waiting longer would only delay critical improvements and likely increase costs. Scaling back would leave major problems unsolved.

- **Limited Learning Opportunities** – Outdated classrooms will remain poorly suited for hands-on, collaborative learning.
- **Constrained Career & Technical Education** – Decades-old spaces will stay in temporary, undersized facilities, limiting enrollment and posing safety concerns.
- **Reduced Access to Technology** – Without dedicated funding, rising tech costs will pull resources from classroom instruction and student support.
- **Fewer Tools for the Future** – Students will miss out on the modern tools and environments they need for college, careers, and life.
- **Reduction in Staffing & Programs along with and Increase in Class Size** – without the Tech Levy money helping the operating budget there will be larger cuts to the budget..

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

There are three ways to vote on or before Tuesday, May 12:



Vote early by mail (starting Friday, March 27):

- To request an absentee ballot, submit a ballot application to the District Center.



Vote early in person (March 27 - May 11):

- Available at the District Center on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (and until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays)



Vote in person on Election Day (Tuesday, May 12) from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at two locations:

- **The Princeton Depot/Museum:** Will serve all district territory in the City of Princeton, Bogus Brook Township, Greenbush Township, Milo Township, Princeton Township, Glendorado Township, Dalbo Township, Spencer Brook Township, and Wyanett Township.
- **Baldwin Town Hall:** Will serve all district territory in the City of Baldwin, Blue Hill Township, and Santiago Township.



Easily apply online for your early voting absentee ballot today!

LEARN MORE AND STAY CONNECTED

- Visit our referendum website: isd477.org/referendum
- Submit a comment or question using the connect form.
- Follow Princeton Public Schools on:



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- Reach out to election@isd477.org or 763-389-7257



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QUESTIONS?

*Thank you for being a part of this important community decision
for the future of Princeton Public Schools!*



To learn more, visit
isd477.org/referendum

Prepared and paid for by Independent School District #477 (Princeton Public Schools), 706 1st Street, Princeton, MN 55371. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question. Princeton Public Schools represents the communities of the City of Baldwin, Blue Hill Township, Bogus Brook Township, Dalbo Township, Glendorado Township, Greenbush Township, Milo Township, the City of Princeton, Princeton Township, Santiago Township, Spencer Brook Township, and Wyanett Township.

VIDEO LINKS

Boiler:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gOju1436dlvwEyYnuWGNzUqNIxETEq_7/view?usp=sharing

Science Classroom:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aYNWCD0xz86AJbsbVRdKIELxqeAYoJQs/view?usp=sharing>

CTE:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EWBM3XaXO6hJy5YSzPD1iyB8dT2BRL8r/view?usp=sharing>