



OUR HUSKIES OUR FUTURE

ALBANY AREA SCHOOLS AUGUST 2022 REFERENDUM



VOTE ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, AUG. 9



On Tuesday, August 9, our district is proposing a single-ballot question to local Albany area residents. If approved, this bond referendum would transform the former Albany hospital into an Early Learning Center that would alleviate space constraints at Avon Elementary and Albany Elementary. **Visit OurHuskiesOurFuture.org for more information.**



THE NEED

Growth is a good thing; however, our district lacks enough space to support our growing programs — primarily in Albany. By 2025, our enrollment is projected to increase and we won't have enough space for

those additional students in our current schools. Small class sizes are important to our district, and as we grow, our class sizes will increase.

We've done our best to manage our space. However, as our enrollment has remained steady, both of our elementary schools are still over capacity, and our enrollment is projected to grow over the

next several years. Also, preschool programming, Special Education, and intervention support are growing and need space.

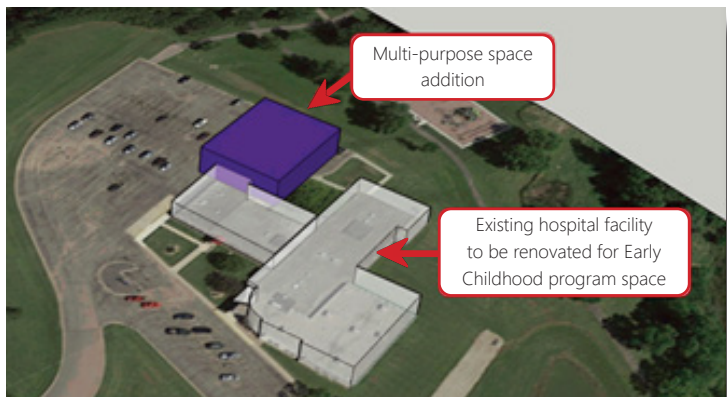
ALLEVIATE SPACE CONSTRAINTS

WHAT WE'VE DONE TO MANAGE OUR NEEDS:

We've moved some students from Albany to Avon, we're currently using all elementary classrooms including those not originally designed as classrooms, we added seven classrooms to our Albany campus in 2017, we closed open enrollment in 2019, and all preschool programming was moved to Avon Elementary.

THE PLAN

After evaluating several options, the school board feels that renovating the former hospital to serve as an Early Learning Center is the best long-term option for our district. This plan would alleviate our current space constraints at both Albany and Avon Elementary (approximately 8-10 classrooms and 200 students total).



THE PROPOSED PLAN INCLUDES:

- 16 classrooms
- Various break-out and collaborative learning areas
- An office and specialist spaces
- Other support spaces including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech
- A kitchen and serving area
- An addition to serve as a multi-purpose and large motor space for students, staff, and our community



WHY NOW?

We've analyzed this need for over four years and have sought out a variety of alternatives to address our needs. Our enrollment is projected to grow over the next several years and we don't have the space our students need.

Our need for space is not going away, and the longer we wait to address these needs, the higher likelihood of additional costs and time.

WHY THE FORMER HOSPITAL?

- Our biggest need for additional space is in Albany.
- Our project team confirms the existing building is structurally sound, affordable, and serves as a cost-effective solution.
- The site can leverage existing amenities and infrastructure including proximity to the City park, utilities, parking lots, green space, a playground, etc.



HOW TO VOTE

Your voice is important, and the decision to invest in our schools is yours. Available now through Monday, August 8, district residents can vote early by absentee ballot at home or in person at the at the Stearns County Service Center or at St. Cloud City Hall.

Residents can also vote in person on Election Day, Tuesday, August 9 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Visit [MNVotes.org](https://www.mnvotes.org) to find your polling location.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to residents in the townships of Colleeville, Farming, Munson, Oak, and Saint Anthony Village.

More information about voting is available at [OurHuskiesOurFuture.org/vote](https://www.ourhuskiesourfuture.org/vote).

THE COST

The proposed referendum requests \$16.96 million, including all issuance and financing costs. Like a home mortgage payment, school bond payments are made up of principal and interest amounts.

If the referendum is approved, the estimated tax impact on a \$150,000 residential home in the district would be about \$5.75 per month.



Visit [OurHuskiesOurFuture.org/cost](https://www.ourhuskiesourfuture.org/cost) to find your estimated tax impact or use the QR code to the left.

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[OurHuskiesOurFuture.org](https://www.ourhuskiesourfuture.org)



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