

Frequently Asked Questions About Proposition E - April 2

Proposition E is a no-tax-rate increase \$22 million bond issue on the ballot April 2 to improve safety, accessibility and other space issues in district buildings and relieve overcrowding in elementary schools. Six million dollars would be used for safety and accessibility enhancements that include secure doors and controlled, single point of entry vestibules for all buildings, asbestos abatement, secure interior and classroom doors, secure exterior doors, as well as elevators and chairlifts to improve accessibility, in accord with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The bond issue would include \$16 million to add space at Hixson Middle School so that sixth grade can be moved there and to convert the Steger Sixth Grade Center/Givens School campus into a single elementary building.

You can find additional information – as well as survey results, studies and other material – on the Proposition E page on our website, at this link <https://www.webster.k12.mo.us/domain/3898>

Didn't the district just increase classroom space at the elementary schools by installing modular units?

Resident enrollment in the district has increased eight percent since 2009 and is expected to trend up through 2024. Three schools currently have modular units (Avery, Clark and Edgar Road). Nine percent of the district's elementary students will attend class in a modular in 2019-20. Avery and Clark each have one; Edgar Road has two and the district is purchasing another for next year. If the bond issue is approved, the district would gradually discontinue use of or repurpose the modulares.

Is the district enrollment growing?

Enrollment in the Webster Groves School District has been growing for quite a few years. Since 2009, **elementary resident enrollment** has increased by 8% and **total resident district enrollment** has increased by 11%. While a few factors surely attribute to this increase, the data shows an upward trend in the number of children born in the district and a notable increase in the number of students who had attended private/parochial schools prior to entering the district (second-highest of any regional school district from 2009 - 2013).

While we monitor actual district enrollment on a regular basis, the district is in its third year of contracting with Dr. Charles Kofron to develop five-year rolling enrollment projections. Dr. Kofron's projections are based on the number of children born within district boundaries and the number of resident children who enter kindergarten in the district. While a projected decrease can be observed in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 kindergarten cohorts (2023-24 based on 5 months of actual births and seven months of projected births), resident district enrollment is still expected to increase 2.3% between now and 2023-24, and resident elementary enrollment is expected to increase by 4.1% within the same timeframe.

Why does the district recommend converting Steger Sixth Grade Center/Givens School into one elementary school?

Converting the Steger/Givens campus into one elementary school would provide considerable relief to the overcrowding in district elementary schools, offering the district more space for a longer time than other options considered. Using this space would increase elementary capacity in the district by 396 students.

In addition, use of the Steger/Givens building in this way furthers district efforts to become a more equitable school system by providing more students and families with a neighborhood elementary school.