

zero dollars to a Robin Hood district for facilities. So all facility improvements, development and building has to occur through local funds.”

Ryan said state law allows the district to keep 100 percent of the money received through a bond election.

“For that reason it makes sense for us to use bond dollars,” he said. “We have a bond around every five to six years as we forecast the needs of our community and the needs of our students and buildings.”

If approved, GCISD residents’ tax rate would increase by approximately 12.81 cents for a total of \$1.45 per \$100 valuation.

GCISD board of trustees President Leon Leal said he has not received any concerns from residents about the potential increase.

“I don’t believe that our voters will think it is that big of an increase,” he said. “Especially when you look at the benefit of the bond—it is far more important than the tax increase. It’s a tough thing, but we need this bond to continue all of the wonderful things we are doing in this district.”

Bond package

From July 2015 through February the Facility Innovation & Readiness Stakeholder Team, a group of 59 GCISD parents, community members and district employees, worked to develop the bond proposal.

FIRST co-chairs Louie Sullins and Shea Kirkman said the bond focuses on four primary objectives: securing students and staff, growth and evolution, investing in infrastructure and enhancing the classroom experience.

A major component of the proposal includes the dedication of \$33 million for the rebuilding of Cannon Elementary School, which was built in 1959.

“I think Cannon Elementary was a unique facility in the sense that it is the oldest school and it is structurally in the worst condition,” Kirkman said. “The FIRST committee toured the entire facility and looked at the

decided it would be a “fiscally-responsible decision to replace Cannon versus continuing to maintain a building that has exceeded its lifespan.”

Another major item in the bond is the building of two multipurpose activity centers—one at each high school—for \$16 million each.

With 90 percent of the district at the high school level involved in extracurricular activities, Kirkman said the centers, which would provide a climate-controlled environment that could be used by athletic teams or the band, cheer or drill team, is needed.

“As a committee, when we looked at the centers, we thought it was a need and not a luxury,” he said. “We thought it was a facility that could touch multiple programs.”

Sullins said the best part about the bond is that it includes items that would affect all students in the district. “All of our campuses will be impacted by the passing of this bond, whether it be from the collaboration space in the library, the furniture in classrooms, devices in kids’ hands, the way the technology is delivered to the children, the facilities that they drive up to everyday, the accessibility to get into that school, and even the expansion and addition of new facilities,” he said. “Everything from the curb to where the kid sits in the classroom and everything in between is included in this bond package.”

Financial impact

The proposed bond is double the amount of the last bond approved by voters in 2011, which was \$124.5 million.

Kirkman said the increase can be attributed to the economy and the increased cost of services.

“When the 2011 bond happened we were in one of the most drastic recessions we had ever seen as a country,” he said. “The cost of goods and services were low. So the construction cost to build those facilities was significantly lower than today’s climate where we have a very strong economy.”

If approved, the average district homeowner, whose house

an increase in taxes.

GCISD residents have passed every bond put before them by the district, and Kirkman believes history will repeat itself in the May election.

“I’m confident that our voters will see how important this bond is,” he said. “We as a district really are continuing to set the tone as a leadership district, and to be an elite school district in the state of Texas you have to have facilities that are maintained and supported, and in certain cases expanded when needed. So I believe our voters will see how valuable this bond is and vote yes.”

From \$1.8 billion to \$249 million
Sullins said FIRST began with a \$1.8 billion wish list of needs and wants from each school.

“It started out at \$1.8 billion and then got down to about \$500 [million] to \$800 million, and then we kept trimming by basically going through it,” Sullins said. “There was stuff in there like replacing all the buses or updating all the lighting to LED or replacing all the furniture in the entire school district, and that’s not feasible at one time.”

Sullins said FIRST also formed six subcommittees that went to visit the district’s facilities and fine arts, athletics and education departments to talk to the directors throughout the district to gather information and evaluate what needed to be in the package.

On Feb. 8, Sullins and Kirkman presented a \$257.9 million bond presentation to trustees. After the presentation Ryan said trustees vetted line items and were able to trim the proposal to \$249 million when it was approved Feb. 18 to go on the May ballot.

“The reductions were made specifically with the thought in mind to not make any major adjustments to any recommendations from the FIRST committee,” he said.

Although prospective voters said in a survey conducted last summer that they would approve a bond of \$250 million or less, Ryan said the trustees did not have a number in mind when cuts were made.

“It was really about making sure that the package that was presented to voters was one that certainly had been vetted by not only the FIRST committee but also the trustees, and that they felt strong enough that they could approve it to go to voters,” he said.

The tax rate of homeowners over the age of 65 who have been approved for a homestead exemption would not see

THE HISTORY OF Grapevine-Colleyville ISD & district bonds

Voters for **Voters against**

MAY 1987
\$34M

The district was unable to find any records of what this bond included.

59%

MAY 1991

TWO PROPOSITIONS: \$19.55M

The district was unable to find a complete record of what this bond included. Two major items that the bond included pertained to aquatics and the high school stadium.

PROP 1 **\$14.9M**

70%

PROP 2 **\$4.65M**

55%

NOVEMBER 1993

THREE PROPOSITIONS: \$75.1M

This bond included the building of Colleyville Heritage High School, Glenhope Elementary School and Silver Lake Elementary School. It also featured renovations and additions to existing schools as well as new technology, transportation and furniture.

PROP 1 **\$27.8M**

New high school

55%

PROP 2 **\$21.3M**

Two new elementary schools

70%

PROP 3 **\$26M**

Renovations, additions and technology

58%

SEPTEMBER 1998

\$134M

This bond included the replacement of Grapevine Middle School and the acquisition of school building sites. Renovations and repairs to all campuses and facilities were made, and technology was purchased.

69%

SEPTEMBER 2005

\$107.9M

This bond featured the replacement of Colleyville Elementary School and the repurposing of the original Colleyville Elementary School for the Bridges Learning Center, District Training Center and offices for special services and nutrition services. New buses, vehicles and technology were purchased.

68%

MAY 2011

\$124.5M

This bond featured upgrades to safety and security and renovation and repairs to facilities. It also included Go Centers for both high schools and a dedicated career and technology center. Operational systems were made more efficient, and the learning environment was enhanced.

68%

2016 bond election information

Early voting: April 25-May 2
Local early voting locations: Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Administration Building, Grapevine Elementary School, Colleyville City Hall, The REC of Grapevine
Election day: May 7 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; voters will vote at designated precinct location.
*You must be a registered voter who resides within the school district's boundaries in order to be eligible to vote in this election. The last day to register to vote is April 7.

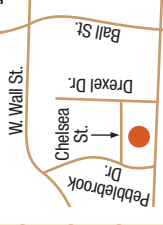
Tell us what you think.
Comment at communityimpact.com

• **1869:** Grapevine Masonic Lodge builds first area school

• **1952:** Grapevine High School on Worth Street opens

• **1959:** Cannon Elementary School opens; original high school becomes the district’s administration building

Cannon Elementary



• **1962:** Grapevine ISD consolidates with Colleyville ISD

• **1963:** Colleyville Elementary School is built

• **1969:** new Grapevine High School opens on Mustang Drive; old GHS building on Worth Street becomes Grapevine Middle School

• **1972:** Dove Elementary School opens

• **1974:** District Administration offices at 3051 Ira E. Woods Ave. opens

• **1975:** Colleyville Middle School opens; district becomes known as Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

• **1980:** Timberline Elementary School opens

• **1986:** O.C. Taylor Elementary School opens

• **1988:** Bear Creek Elementary School opens

• **1990:** Grapevine Junior High School opens (later renamed Cross Timbers Middle School)

• **1991:** Heritage Elementary School opens

• **1992:** Heritage Middle School opens

• **1993:** Bransford Elementary School opens

• **1994:** Grapevine Elementary School opens

• **1995:** Glenhope Elementary and Silver Lake Elementary schools open

• **1996:** Colleyville Heritage High opens; Cross Timbers Middle School reopens

• **2000:** new Mustang-Panther Stadium opens

• **2001:** new Grapevine Middle School opens

• **2002:** renovations and construction projects to all campuses and facilities are completed with funds from 1998 bond program

• **2007:** new artificial turf is installed in Mustang-Panther Stadium; new Colleyville Elementary School opens

• **2012:** district celebrates 50 years

• **May 7, 2016:** voters to decide on \$249 million bond

Bond meetings

The district is hosting bond election meetings to provide information on the proposed \$249 million package. The one hour meetings begin at 6 p.m.

March 22-Heritage Middle School

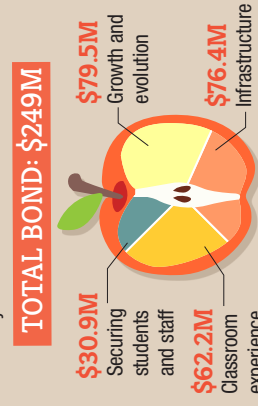
March 31-Colleyville Middle School

April 5-Cross Timbers Middle School

A LOOK AT THE 2016 BOND

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

The proposed bond projects would affect every campus in GCISD and address growth and facility needs for students in four main areas:



PLAYGROUNDS:

All elementary schools would receive upgrades to their playgrounds.

SECURITY:

New security cameras as well as controlled entrance access for campuses would be implemented. Also, intercom systems would be upgraded, and exterior and interior surveillance cameras would be replaced. New classroom door hardware to support emergency lockdowns and comply with fire code would be added.

SAFETY:

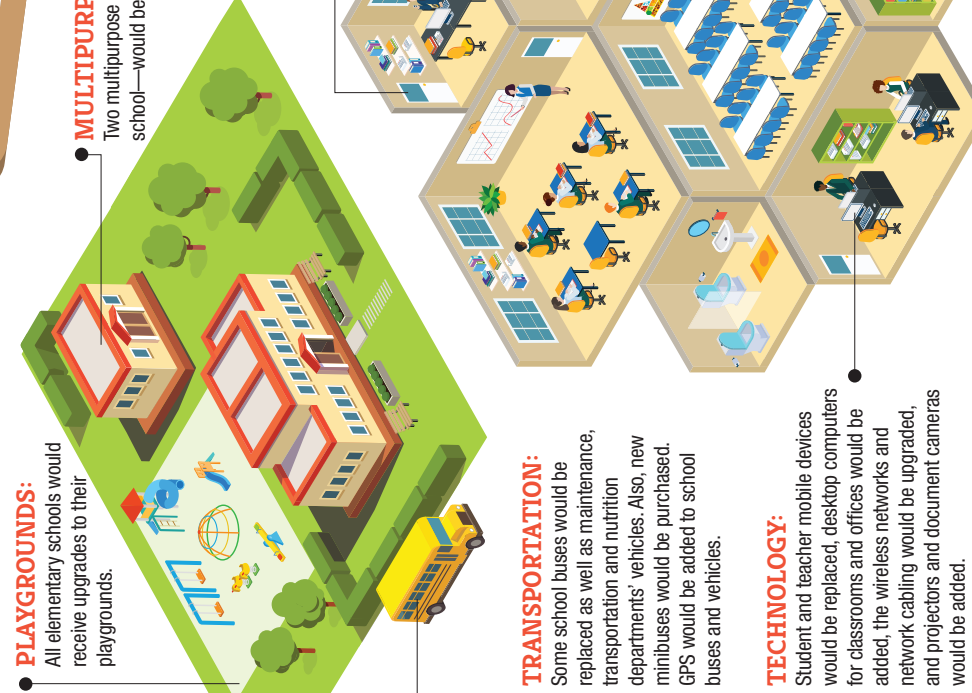
Carbon monoxide detectors would be added; fire alarm panels would be replaced; non-slip material in lockers rooms would be installed and gas, electric and water safety shut-off valves in science labs would be added.

EXPANSIONS:

Heritage Middle School’s cafeteria would be expanded. Also, there would be classroom additions to accommodate program growth at Grapevine Elementary School, Timberline Elementary School, and Grapevine Middle School.

FURNITURE:

Classrooms would receive new furniture, and cabinets would be replaced. Libraries would receive new furniture and renovations for new collaboration areas.



TRANSPORTATION:

Some school buses would be replaced as well as maintenance, transportation and nutrition departments’ vehicles. Also, new minibuses would be purchased. GPS would be added to school buses and vehicles.

TECHNOLOGY:

Student and teacher mobile devices would be replaced, desktop computers for classrooms and offices would be added, the wireless networks and network cabling would be upgraded, and projectors and document cameras would be added.