



NEWS

Mercer Island School District

Volume 13 Issue #2, March 2012

April 17 Special Election

Authorizing a \$196,275,000 proposition to rebuild schools

— This bond will modernize our schools and house the increasing student population we anticipate by 2023.

- **Rebuild three elementary schools**
\$104,500,000
- **Rebuild Islander Middle School**
\$75,000,000
- **Provide additional science rooms and classrooms at the high school**
\$3,000,000
- **Make improvements to the athletic stadium**
\$2,500,000
- **Land acquisition for a sixth school site**
\$9,250,000
- **Modernize Mary Wayte Pool**
\$2,000,000
- **Create a master plan for the high school “mega-block”**
\$25,000

On the evening of February 9, 2012 the Mercer Island School Board formally approved bond resolution No. 592, providing for a ballot issue to be submitted to the Mercer Island community on April 17, 2012 in the amount of \$196,275,000. The board’s action is based on over four years of deliberation, beginning with demographic studies in 2008 that projected an additional 800 students by the beginning of the next decade.

Mercer Island Schools are over capacity and more students are coming*

Today MISD enrollment is 4,178 in five schools. All of these schools, except the high school, exceed their design capacity. Design capacity is not population capacity. Design capacity represents the number of students that can be housed in a school based on its programmatic needs. For example, special education programs require more square footage than do general education programs. Currently there are 650 students housed in 26 portable classrooms. Common spaces such as lunchrooms, hallways, gyms, playgrounds, storage and administrative spaces are extensively utilized.

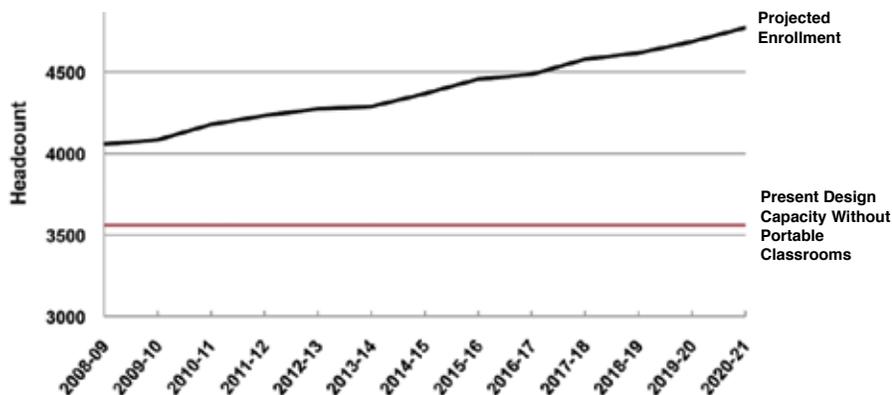
Current and Expected Design Capacity and Enrollment

School Year	Island Park	Lakeridge	West Mercer	IMS
	*Design Capacity: 430 455 480 850			
2011-12	550 28% over	600 32% over	670 40% over	1,007 18% over
2015-16	575 34% over	662 45% over	670 40% over	1,055 24% over
2017-18	597 39% over	662 45% over	670 40% over	1,084 28% over

*Elementary class-sizes at 24:1

Based on current program needs, the four (4) schools listed above contain on average 29% more students than the design capacity. By 2017 our schools will be 38% over design capacity. Our total current enrollment is expected to grow to 4,500 in five years.

Demographic Trends and Projections (December 2008 - Updated)



* per 2008 Demographics Study

FACTS

The Mercer Island School District is one of the few districts in Washington State to receive a AAA bond rating from Moody's Investment Services.

As of 2012 our current elementary and middle schools are 47 to 57 years old. There are 650 students housed in 26 portable classrooms now, and we anticipate 600 additional students by 2023.

We have space for 2-4 more portable classrooms on school properties, but they would need to be placed in the middle of our asphalted playground areas and would substantially impact student use for recess and other outdoor activities.

Additional portable classrooms will not accommodate the additional 155 students expected by 2015.

There are approximately 120 open enrollment students in our schools today, of which 1/3 are children of staff.

By Washington State law, staff members may enroll their children, at their discretion, at their district of employment. Open Enrollment has been closed to new families since 2008.

Extensive remodels could extend the life of our schools by 10 or more years, but would cost 80% of the cost of a new school. A new school would have a life of up to 50 years.

What's in the 2012 Bond?

Rebuilds of oldest schools: After more than five decades, our three elementary schools and Islander Middle School are at the end of their lifespans. These schools will be rebuilt in 2-story configurations due to land-use restrictions and to house the 600 additional students we expect by 2023.

Present Buildings

West Mercer	1963 / remodel 1995	8 portable classrooms
Lakeridge	1954 / remodel 1995	7 portable classrooms
Island Park	1957 / remodel 1995	4 portable classrooms
Islander Middle	1958 / 1994 / 2000	7 portable classrooms
Admin Building	1966	
North Campus	1962 / closed 1982	

Flexibility for the Future: The 21st Century Facilities Committee unanimously agreed that the school district is currently constrained by the land that it owns and that the board should look to acquire additional land for district-use, as prudent and over time. The purpose is to create flexibility to house students and provide classroom space should the expansion of the town center result in more enrollment growth than projected. With the passage of the bond issue the district has committed to the purchase of the Stevenson property. While the Stevenson property is too small to site a school, it does allow for a potential land exchange in the future by securing one of the last significant sites on the island.

Additional science rooms and classrooms at Mercer Island High School: The bond will modernize a wing at the high school to provide six to twelve classrooms with an emphasis on science labs and two additional courses – *Materials Science* and *Robotics*.

Improvements to the Athletic Stadium: Upgrades will be made to the restrooms, press box, concession stands and bleachers.

Modernization of Mary Wayte Pool: The modernization will extend the life of the pool for 10-15 years.

Master Plan for the high school mega-block: Funds will be allocated to complete a detailed plan for the block that now houses Mercer Island High School.

Construction Scenarios

Construction will begin in April 2014 and end in 2018 or 2019 depending on bond sales over 5, 6 or 7 years. The earliest a new school will open is August 2015. Detailed cost analysis can be found on the district web site: www.misd.k12.wa.us or by calling (206) 236-3300.

FACTS

Our single-story building infrastructures will not support two-story schools and will not be able to house the additional 600 students we are expecting by 2023.



For more Information

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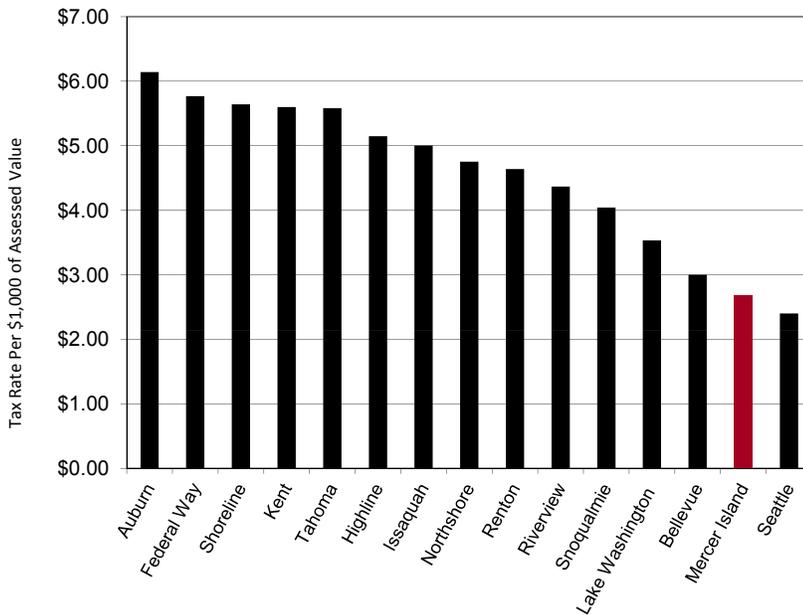
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The 21st Century Facilities
Planning page at <http://www.misd.k12.wa.us/departments/facilities/21cfpc/21CFPC.html>

Residential Customer

Comparison of King County School Districts – 2012 Tax Rates

(Districts with M&O, Capital and Bond Levies)



Costs and Bonding

The district is proposing a bond of \$196,275,000 over 5-7 years. Bonds would be sold and construction would be phased over a 5-7 year period in order to keep tax rates as low and flat as possible. The annual cost of this bond will be an additional \$700 per \$1 million of assessed value, or \$350 on a home assessed at \$500,000. This amounts to approximately \$58 per month. Similar to a mortgage, bonds are paid for over about 20-25 years. Though tax rates will increase, the new bond will keep tax rates stable for taxpayers. The current bond debt of \$20 million authorized in the 1990's will expire in 2015. MISD's current tax rate is \$2.68 per \$1,000 of assessed value, significantly lower than most surrounding districts.

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