Rochester Public School District
Community Survey Results

Winter 2019
Survey Summary

• The survey was conducted in February of 2019.
• Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
• Total responses = 8,243 (2,731 paper)
• Participation rate = 14%
• Margin of error = +/- 1.1%
Respondent Information
What is your age?

- 18-25: 1%
- 26-35: 14%
- 36-45: 29%
- 46-55: 20%
- 56-64: 14%
- 65 and older: 22%
Do you live in the Rochester Public School District?

- Yes: 95%
- No: 4%
- Not sure: 1%

Legend:
- Yes
- No
- Not sure
In which municipality do you reside?

- City of Rochester: 83%
- Rochester Township: 3%
- None of the above: 3%
- Cascade Township: 2%
- Marion Township: 2%
- Haverhill Township: 2%
- Oronoco Township: 2%
- Marion Township: 1%
- City of Oronoco: 1%
- Zumbro Township: 0.14%
- Kalmar Township: 0.14%
- High Forest Township: 0.14%
- Farmington Township: 0.11%
- New Haven Township: 0.09%
- Pleasant Grove Township: 0.09%
- City of Pine Island: 0.09%
- Hammond Township: 0.05%
- Viola Township: 0.05%
- Viola Township: 0.05%
- Hyde Park Township: 0.04%
- None of the above: 0.05%
- None of the above: 0.04%
In which area of the District do you reside?

- Northeast: 19%
- Northwest: 42%
- Southeast: 17%
- Southwest: 22%

Map showing the divisions of the District.
Are you an employee of the District?

- Yes (n=1,521)
- No (n=6,461)
Do you have children attending school in the District?

- Yes (n=3,682)
- No (n=4,272)
If you have school-age children, please check all grade ranges that apply:

- Pre K – Kindergarten: 26%
- Elementary school: 54%
- Middle school: 36%
- High school: 38%
Communication
How do you prefer to receive information from the District?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Non-Parents (Non-Staff)</th>
<th>Parents (Non-Staff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text message</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School/District website</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube)</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated phone messenger</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV news coverage</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester Post-Bulletin</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent organizations</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend meetings</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med City Beat</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend School Board meetings</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Channel 189 (Public Access Channel)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you follow the District on any of the following forms of social media?

- Facebook.com/ISD535
  - Parents: 34%
  - Non-Parents: 7%

- Twitter @RPS535
  - Parents: 5%
  - Non-Parents: 1%

- YouTube @ISD535
  - Parents: 2%
  - Non-Parents: 1%

- Do not follow
  - Parents: 59%
  - Non-Parents: 91%
Planning Background Information
The Facilities Task Force identified the following issues as the most pressing facing the District:

**Enrollment Growth**
In just the past five years, enrollment in the District has increased by more than 1,000 students. A Community Growth and Housing Study, conducted by Cooperative Strategies, reports that the District will experience significant housing development over the next five years, including an additional 4,000 to 6,000 multi- and single-family units. As a result, enrollment is projected to increase by over 1,200 students.

![District-wide Student Enrollment History](image)
School Capacity
The District is **currently operating near capacity.** Based on enrollment projections, the District will be operating over capacity at the elementary and middle school levels in **two years.** This will require additional classroom space as well as educational support areas such as cafeterias and gyms. **It is important to note that it will take three years after a bond referendum is approved before construction is completed and spaces are available for students.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Current Enrollment</th>
<th>Capacity*</th>
<th>Current Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>8,095</td>
<td>8,264</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>3,858</td>
<td>3,870</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>4,949</td>
<td>5,341</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: School capacity for K-12 students only.*
Safety/Security
The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. Some of our schools’ main entrances need to be redesigned to better monitor and control visitor access. This would require all visitors to be routed through the main office before gaining access to the rest of the school. Many schools’ door locking systems also need to be updated to remotely monitor all entrances, and emergency alarm systems need to be replaced to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code requirements.

Outdated Support Spaces
There are a number of support areas that need to be updated in our middle and high schools. Some of the District’s pools have outlived their service life while others are in need of updates. The sound and lighting systems in the high schools’ auditoriums are in need of replacement, and outdoor athletic spaces need updating.

In order to secure funding to address the needs above, Rochester School District voters would need to approve a bond referendum.
What advice would you give the School Board?

*(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)*

- **Explore a bond referendum**
  - All Residents: 69%
  - Staff: 80%
  - Parents (Non-Staff): 75%
  - Non-Parents (Non-Staff): 59%

- **Do nothing at this time**
  - All Residents: 10%
  - Staff: 4%
  - Parents (Non-Staff): 5%
  - Non-Parents (Non-Staff): 18%

- **Undecided/Would need more information**
  - All Residents: 21%
  - Staff: 16%
  - Parents (Non-Staff): 20%
  - Non-Parents (Non-Staff): 23%
Recommended Base Plan
BUILD A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON DISTRICT-OWNED LAND

This project would build a two-story school in the northwest portion of the District to serve 720 students in kindergarten through 5th grade that includes:

- Classrooms and support areas with flexible space for small group instruction, student collaboration, and project-based learning
- A dedicated cafeteria, single-court gym, and stage for performances
- Sufficient parking and proper separation of pedestrians and vehicle/bus traffic
- Energy-efficient systems and natural lighting

Estimated project cost: $33 million
Would you support a referendum that provides funding to build a new elementary school?  
(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
RECONSTRUCT BISHOP AND LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bishop and Longfellow Elementary Schools are 59 and 68 years old, respectively. Although the buildings have served the District well, major investments are needed at each school to address the following issues:

- Classrooms and support spaces (kitchens, lunchrooms, libraries, and gyms) are operating over capacity.
- Many of the major building systems (heating, plumbing, and electrical) are energy inefficient, have exceeded their service life, and are in need of replacement.
- The schools lack proper air quality, insulation, acoustics, and natural light.

Due to the number of load-bearing walls and single-story design, remodeling and expanding the existing schools is not an option. Therefore, the Facilities Task Force is recommending adding needed capacity by reconstructing (tearing down and building new) both schools. The new two-story schools would be designed to serve 720 students each.

**Estimated project cost: $33 million per school**
Would you support a referendum that provides funding to reconstruct Bishop Elementary?

(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
Would you support a referendum that provides funding to reconstruct Longfellow Elementary? (Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
BUILD A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

This project would build a multi-story school on purchased land in the southwest portion of the District to serve 1,200 students in 6th through 8th grade that includes:

- Classrooms and support areas with flexible space for small group instruction, student collaboration, and project-based learning
- Modern labs/studios to support class offerings in science, art, engineering, design, and family & consumer education
- A dedicated cafeteria, two-court gym, and auditorium
- Sufficient parking and proper separation of pedestrians and vehicle/bus traffic
- Energy-efficient systems and natural lighting

Estimated project cost: $62 million
Would you support a referendum that provides funding to build a new middle school?

*(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>All Residents</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Parents (Non-Staff)</th>
<th>Non-Parents (Non-Staff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure/need more information</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY

The District has updated many of the school entrances to current safety standards. This project would redesign the main entrances at the remaining schools to better monitor and control visitor access. Once complete, visitors at all Rochester Public Schools will be routed through a school’s main office before gaining access to the rest of the school.

Estimated project cost: $2 million
Would you support a referendum that provides funding to improve school safety by updating school entrances?

(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
Would you support a referendum that provides funding to…

*Yes (10), No (1)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>All Residents</th>
<th>Staff Residents</th>
<th>Parent Residents (Non-Staff)</th>
<th>Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>improve school safety by updating school entrances? Est. cost: $2 million</td>
<td>8.70</td>
<td>9.03</td>
<td>9.17</td>
<td>8.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>build a new elementary school? Est. cost: $33 million</td>
<td>8.06</td>
<td>9.19</td>
<td>8.71</td>
<td>7.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>build a new middle school? Est. cost: $62 million</td>
<td>8.01</td>
<td>9.18</td>
<td>8.85</td>
<td>6.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reconstruct Bishop Elementary? Est. cost: $33 million</td>
<td>7.32</td>
<td>8.31</td>
<td>7.91</td>
<td>6.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reconstruct Longfellow Elementary? Est. cost: $33 million</td>
<td>7.22</td>
<td>8.18</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>6.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Base Plan Funding
The total cost to complete all of the projects in the Base Plan is $163 million and includes:

- Build a new elementary school $33 million
- Reconstruct Bishop Elem $33 million
- Reconstruct Longfellow Elem $33 million
- Build a new middle school $62 million
- Improve school safety $2 million

The chart shows the projected tax impact to complete the Base Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Property</th>
<th>Assessed Tax Value</th>
<th>$163 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Homestead</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial/Industrial</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$926</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Base Plan?

**All Residents**

- **Definitely yes**: 36%
- **Probably yes**: 31%
- **Undecided**: 13%
- **Probably no**: 8%
- **Definitely no**: 12%

67% Yes
20% No
Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Base Plan?

Staff Residents

- Definitely yes: 48%
- Probably yes: 30%
- Undecided: 13%
- Probably no: 5%
- Definitely no: 4%

78% Yes, 9% No
Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Base Plan?

Parent Residents (Non-Staff)

- Definitely yes: 42%
- Probably yes: 35%
- Undecided: 12%
- Probably no: 6%
- Definitely no: 5%

Total Yes: 77%
Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Base Plan? Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)

- Definitely yes: 27%
- Probably yes: 28%
- Undecided: 13%
- Probably no: 12%
- Definitely no: 20%

55% Yes, 32% No
Additional Projects
ADDRESS REMAINING SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS
The schools’ door locking systems need to be updated to allow for remote monitoring of all access points. In addition, the emergency alarm systems need to be replaced to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code requirements. Estimated project cost: $4.4 million

Would you support a referendum that provides funding to address the safety and security needs?
(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
BUILD AND UPDATE HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS, CLOSE MIDDLE SCHOOL POOLS

The swimming pools at the District’s middle schools are all in need of significant updates and are too small to serve as competition pools. Century High School is the only high school in the District without a competition swimming pool, and the diving well at Mayo High School’s pool needs to be made deeper to meet code requirements.

The District is proposing:
• Closing the middle school pools to save money/reduce annual operating costs and repurpose the space
• Building a competition pool at Century High School
• Deepening the Mayo High School pool diving well

Estimated project cost: $9.5 million

Would you support a referendum that provides funding to build and update the high school pools and close the middle school pools?
(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
BUY LAND FOR FUTURE SCHOOLS
Ongoing enrollment growth is expected in the District. Therefore, it is likely that additional schools will need to be built in the future. The District could purchase 80+ acres of land now that would serve as a future school site. Land parcels of this size may not be available in the future and costs will likely increase.

Estimated project cost: $1.5 million

Would you support a referendum that provides funding to purchase land for a future school?
(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
To ensure the District has enough elementary capacity, Churchill Elementary could also be reconstructed to serve up to 720 students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Churchill, like Bishop and Longfellow Elementary Schools, is more than 50 years old and has classrooms and support spaces (kitchen, cafeteria, and gym) that are too small to support expansion. Additionally, the single-story design and number of load-bearing walls does not allow the existing school to be remodeled and expanded.

Estimated project cost: $33 million

Would you support a referendum that provides funding to reconstruct Churchill?

(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
UPDATE HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FIELDS
The District would like to add artificial turf at John Marshall and Century High Schools as well as build a concession, storage, and restroom facility at Century High School. Estimated project cost: $5.5 million

Would you support a referendum that provides funding to update the high school outdoor athletic fields?
(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)
UPDATE SOUND AND LIGHTING SYSTEMS IN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUMS

The lighting and sound systems in all three high schools are old, failing, and unable to meet the schools’ needs. As a result, the District is required to regularly rent equipment. Updated systems will provide better quality and energy efficiency. Estimated project cost: $2.5 million

Would you support a referendum that provides funding to update the high school auditoriums?

(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)

![Bar chart showing support percentages for updating high school auditoriums by group: All Residents, Staff, Parents (Non-Staff), Non-Parents (Non-Staff).]

- Yes: 52% (All Residents), 58% (Staff), 59% (Parents), 44% (Non-Parents)
- No: 26% (All Residents), 20% (Staff), 19% (Parents), 35% (Non-Parents)
- Not sure/need more information: 22% (All Residents), 22% (Staff), 22% (Parents), 21% (Non-Parents)
Would you support a referendum that provides funding to...

Yes (10), No (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>All Residents</th>
<th>Staff Residents</th>
<th>Parent Residents (Non-Staff)</th>
<th>Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>address the safety and security needs? Est. cost: $4.4 million</td>
<td>8.57</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>9.11</td>
<td>7.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purchase land for a future school? Est. cost: $1.5 million</td>
<td>7.90</td>
<td>8.94</td>
<td>8.70</td>
<td>6.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>update the high school auditoriums? Est. cost: $2.5 million</td>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>7.64</td>
<td>7.82</td>
<td>6.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reconstruct Churchill? Est. cost: $33 million</td>
<td>6.49</td>
<td>7.58</td>
<td>7.18</td>
<td>5.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>build and update the high school pools and close the middle school pools? Est. cost: $9.5 million</td>
<td>6.23</td>
<td>7.01</td>
<td>7.20</td>
<td>5.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>update the high school outdoor athletic fields? Est. cost: $5.5 million</td>
<td>4.77</td>
<td>5.40</td>
<td>5.77</td>
<td>3.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding Support
The cost of the recommended Base Plan is $163 million. If all the additional projects outlined in the survey were completed, the total cost is estimated at $219.4 million. Given the cost, the District may have to complete the projects in phases, based on the community’s priorities and their willingness to financially support the projects. The following table shows the projected tax impact for various bond referendum amounts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Property</th>
<th>Assessed Tax Value</th>
<th>$163 million (Base Plan)</th>
<th>$180 million</th>
<th>$195 million</th>
<th>$210 million</th>
<th>$219.4 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Homestead</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$39</td>
<td>$43</td>
<td>$47</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$61</td>
<td>$68</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$82</td>
<td>$87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$98</td>
<td>$108</td>
<td>$118</td>
<td>$124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$166</td>
<td>$186</td>
<td>$205</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$241</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$298</td>
<td>$326</td>
<td>$343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial/Industrial</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$301</td>
<td>$338</td>
<td>$373</td>
<td>$408</td>
<td>$429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                        | $1,000,000         | $926                     | $1,041       | $1,149       | $1,256       | $1,321
How much of a tax increase would you support through a bond referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?  
(Rochester Public School District Residents Only)

- **Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff):**
  - 23% support $219.4 million
  - 5% support $210 million
  - 9% support $195 million
  - 8% support $180 million
  - 9% support $163 million
  - 7% support $150 million
  - 9% support $144 million
  - 14% support $135 million
  - 19% support $126 million

- **Parent Residents (Non-Staff):**
  - 38% support $219.4 million
  - 6% support $210 million
  - 13% support $195 million
  - 7% support $180 million
  - 9% support $163 million
  - 15% support $150 million
  - 5% support $144 million
  - 11% support $135 million

- **Staff Residents:**
  - 40% support $219.4 million
  - 6% support $210 million
  - 13% support $195 million
  - 7% support $180 million
  - 8% support $163 million
  - 5% support $150 million
  - 17% support $144 million
  - 4% support $135 million

- **All Residents:**
  - 32% support $219.4 million
  - 5% support $210 million
  - 11% support $195 million
  - 8% support $180 million
  - 9% support $163 million
  - 15% support $150 million
  - 11% support $144 million
  - 9% support $135 million

- 50% support a smaller bond referendum
- 13% support I'm not sure/need more information
- 19% support I would not support any bond referendum
Thank you!