Building Bond Referendum
November 3, 2015

In collaboration with the community, District 742 has analyzed its facilities to assess how well they meet current needs and concluded that although the school district has budgeted wisely and ensured efficient use of resources, many of our facilities are outdated and inefficient and in need of structure, safety, accessibility and technology improvements and construction.

On November 3, 2015, St. Cloud Area School District 742 and the Board of Education will be asking voters to decide on a proposed building bond referendum in a special election.

The question requests to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed $167,000,000 over twenty years to provide funds for the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities throughout the school district. The funds would pay the cost for:

- Land and construction of a new Technical High School: $113,800,000
- The repair and renovation of the existing Apollo High School site and facility: $46,500,000
- The construction of secure, controlled entries and safety and security upgrades to various school sites and facilities throughout the district: $2,500,000
- And for the acquisition, installation, replacement and maintenance of software, computers, mobile devices, technology and technology systems for schools throughout the district: $4,200,000

Total: $167,000,000

“We urge you to learn all you can about the referendum and vote on November 3rd. As we honor the last hundred years and look to the future of District 742, we aim to transform education and build a promising future for all of our learners.”

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Superintendent
Be Heard on November 3rd

The What

High Schools for the Future

Good custodial care and renovations have helped extend Tech’s life, but the building has been in use for 98 years—58 years longer than the average life expectancy of a school building. Apollo High School is 45 years old and also beyond the average. Both high schools have become inefficient and outdated and no longer meet the needs of students striving to achieve success in a 21st century world.

The referendum will fund the construction of a new Tech High School in South St. Cloud near Neenah Creek Regional Park.

The referendum will provide for extensive renovation and repairs at Apollo High School.

Security Enhancements to Buildings

The average age of a school building in District 742 is 40 years. Construction and design of these structures met the needs of a different era.

By modifying entrances at our school buildings and in some cases relocating office space, the District will proactively enhance building security at each school to ensure a safe, productive and positive learning environment for staff and students.

Technology: Catching Up

Effective use of classroom technology allows teachers to create more interactive, personalized and self-directed learning experiences. Our students are accustomed to information at their fingertips and need immediate access to technology tools. When using technology effectively, students develop the essential 21st century skills of digital citizenship, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. As a school district, we are obligated to prepare students for college and career readiness in a digital world.

The referendum will provide for the purchase, installation and maintenance of technology resources for students of all ages throughout the district, expanding upon the 1:1 Initiative launched in grades 6-8 in 2014.
The St. Cloud Area School District has an obligation to provide learning environments that meet both the physical and social-emotional needs of all students while preparing them for success in a technological, global society.

As part of its strategic plan, District 742 has committed to developing systemic educational initiatives to prepare all students for college, career and life after high school. As such, the district must provide the resources and support necessary to carry out this vision.

District 742 is committed to meeting the needs of all students by providing active, personalized and self-directed learning. This referendum will help to create an environment for students and teachers that embodies the flexible workspaces and technology infrastructure necessary to promote personalized learning.

Currently crowded, inflexible spaces and aging facilities limit learning opportunities. We are unable to support student needs for anytime/anywhere technology. In addition, not all our learners have access to technology, which is a barrier to learning in a digital world. Athletics and activities for Technical High School are spread out over the St. Cloud area rather than on-site.

The referendum will help to create school environments for different styles of teaching and learning including typical classrooms but also small and large group settings, studios, labs and student as well as teacher collaborative areas.

The referendum will fund science and technology labs designed to meet today’s rigorous education standards.

The referendum will fund hands-on learning opportunities such as culinary arts, design/build programs and video production.

A successful school bond referendum leads to a sustained increase in home values.

If the Bond Referendum Fails:

District 742 will need to continue to expend expensive resources on repairs to Tech and Apollo while the structures will continue to deteriorate.

The outdated facilities will fail to provide the personalized learning experiences that students need and residents recognize as vital to present day learning.

Current entrances and offices at most schools will remain in use and pose challenges and risks to security.

Students will continue to play “catch up” in the use of technology for learning and be less prepared to use technology in college and the workplace.

### Estimated Tax Impact for Residential Homestead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Market Value</th>
<th>Estimated Monthly Impact</th>
<th>Estimated Yearly Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<td>$117.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>$150,000</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>$400,000</td>
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The estimated cost for maintaining the current Tech and Apollo High Schools over the next ten years is $140 million.

The entire community benefits with well prepared and educated graduates.
Currently, residents in District 742 pay the least amount of school taxes compared to neighboring school districts. Even with the passing of the proposed bond referendum, District 742 would remain competitive.

**Local School Taxes on a $150,000 Home**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CURRENT</th>
<th>WITH REFERENDUM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Cloud Area Schools</td>
<td>$521.00</td>
<td>$739.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sauk Rapids / Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sartell / St. Stephen</td>
<td>$684.29</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCORI</td>
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**Register to vote.**
Go to mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us.

**Find your polling place.**
Since this is a special election, your polling place may change.
Go to pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

**Calculate how your property taxes would be impacted.**
Go to levyinfo.com.

**Attend a Public Information Meeting.**
Go to www.isd742.org/bond2015 for a schedule of upcoming Bond Referendum meetings.

**Schedule a Referendum Presentation.**
Email Bond2015@isd742.org or call 320-253-9333 ext. 1062.

**Get more information.**
Go to www.isd742.org/bond2015 or email Bond2015@isd742.org.

Prepared and paid for by ISD 742, St. Cloud Area Schools, 1000 44th Avenue North, Suite 100, St. Cloud, MN 56303. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.