

## Are Senior Citizens exempt from any taxes? I'm 65, will this affect my taxes?

While no tax payers will see an increase in tax rates from this election, residents who have an over-65 homestead exemption have the additional security of knowing that their taxes were frozen at the time of their 65th birthday. Anyone who needs more information about the exemption should call the Smith County Appraisal District at 903-510-8600 and ask for the Exemption Department or go to the appraisal district's website at [www.smithcad.org](http://www.smithcad.org).

## Who is qualified to vote in the Tyler ISD Bond Election?

All registered voters within the boundaries of Tyler ISD are qualified to vote.

## Need more information about the 2010 Bond Election?

Phone the Tyler ISD Communications Office at 903-262-1065 to schedule a bond presentation for your group or organization or for more information, visit [www.tylerisd.org](http://www.tylerisd.org). Email [angela.jenkins@tylerisd.org](mailto:angela.jenkins@tylerisd.org) and questions will be answered promptly. Para información en Español, por favor llámé al número 903.262.1065.

## Tyler ISD Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Seventh Year in a Row

Tyler ISD has been awarded the Certificate for Financial Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

## Upcoming Dates

### Bond Information Meetings

Tuesday, October 26  
6:00 p.m. @ Jack Elementary School  
6:00 p.m. @ Texas College

Thursday, October 28

6:00 p.m. @ Moore Middle School  
6:30 p.m. @ Owens Elementary School

### Early Voting

October 18 to October 29

### Election Day

Tuesday, November 2  
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Link is published by the

Tyler Independent School

District and is designed as an

informative resource for parents

and students. For

additional information regarding

Tyler ISD or topics printed in

this publication please contact:

**Mary Angela Jenkins**  
Director of Communications/PR  
903.262.1066  
[angela.jenkins@tylerisd.org](mailto:angela.jenkins@tylerisd.org)

Esta publicación esta disponible en español. Favor de llamar a este numero 903.262.1000.



1319 New Sunnybrook  
P.O. Box 2035  
Tyler, Texas 75710  
[www.tylerisd.org](http://www.tylerisd.org)



A PUBLICATION OF THE TYLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Bond Election Set for November 2

The Tyler Independent School District has had the opportunity to celebrate the opening of 14 new or renovated schools through the completion of the 2004 and the soon to be completed 2008 Bond Programs. All of these campuses were built thanks to \$220.852 million in bond funds graciously authorized by the voters in our community.

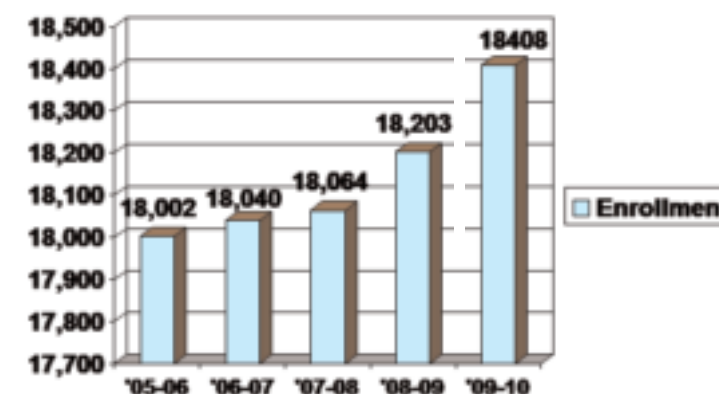
The new campuses contain elements that are energy efficient and have helped the district control utility costs. The buildings feature security and safety measures, with the removal of portable classrooms, enclosed corridors, controlled entrances, and video surveillance systems. Throughout the schools, technological equipment is in place, including computer stations, digital projectors, high-definition LCD screens, and wireless connectivity.

The 2004 and 2008 Bond packages were the first two phases of the District's facilities master plan. The next phase is currently being presented to voters for consideration. The Phase 3 Bond proposal includes the replacement of the final two elementary campuses and the construction of a new middle school. These three projects carry a total projected cost of \$89,850,885. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

New Dixie Elementary School	\$ 20,199,994
New Rice Elementary School	\$ 25,607,473*
New Middle School	\$ 44,043,418

\*The Rice Elementary projected costs include additional square footage for a larger student population and funds for temporary student relocation during construction.

### Enrollment Increases



Tyler ISD's student population has increased by an average of more than 100 students each school year for the past five years.

District demographer continues to estimate slow but steady growth.



linking parents, students & schools



## Dixie Elementary School

**Current**  
 Year Built.....1978  
 Acreage.....25.53  
 Square Footage.....56,916  
 Portables.....15  
 Current FCI.....76.9%

**Proposed**  
 Sq. Footage Approx..... 88,000  
 Site.....Current Location  
 Projected Cost.....\$20,199,994  
 Capacity..... 800 students\*  
 \*Will allow room for future growth in undeveloped attendance boundary.

## What is the projected completion schedule for the proposed projects?

Approval of this proposal in November would provide the District the opportunity to complete the new middle school in time for an anticipated August 2012 opening. The two new elementary schools would also be slated for opening in August 2012, dependent upon challenges which could arise in the design or construction phases.

**FCI** A Facility Condition Index (FCI) was used to determine the physical condition of each facility. The FCI measures the estimated cost of the current year deficiencies including recommended improvements and compares that to the replacement cost of the facility. If the cost of renovating a school is 70% or higher than the cost of building an entirely new campus, then it is more cost-effective in the long term to replace the facility.



Visit the Tyler website at [www.tylerisd.org](http://www.tylerisd.org) to sign-up for the Tyler ISD E-Link Electronic Newsletter to receive announcements about the latest news and events.

## Overview of 2004/2008 Bond Program

The first two phases of the Bond Program achieved the following:

- School construction started on time
- Completed on time
- Completed under budget
- Increase in energy efficiency
- Increased security/safety measures
- Additional facility enhancements
- Aided improved TAKS scores
- Structural recognition

The cost of the 2004 Bond Program was \$95.9 million and the cost of the 2008 Bond Program was \$124.9 million.

With the passage of these two Bond Programs 11 elementary campuses were replaced, one new elementary campus was constructed and two elementary campuses were renovated.

The 2004 and 2008 bond packages removed more than 127 portables from various elementary campuses. All new schools feature computer labs with high-definition LCD screens, streaming video capability and digital projectors in each classroom. Each new school also features enclosed corridors, controlled entrances at reception areas, video surveillance cameras, burglar alarms, and card access control at all entrance points.

## What research was used in planning the bond program?

The District contracted with a nationally recognized demographic firm to research demographic makeup, projected student population growth, new construction, and the impact of neighborhood growth on school facility locations over the next 10 years. The District also relied heavily on research gathered from architectural and facilities planning professionals. These professionals worked with the Tyler ISD Administration to review existing facility assessments, historical data of construction costs from the northeast Texas area and current costs based the 2008 Bond project.

## How was the exact amount of this bond referendum decided?

The research obtained from the demographic study, the facilities assessment, and the community was used to identify and prioritize potential projects for Phase 3. The Board of Trustees and the District's financial advisors reviewed the Districts debt capacity and determined that these projects fell within the limits that the District could borrow without the voters incurring any additional tax increase.

## How might this bond election impact taxes?

Should voters give approval in November, there would be no increase in tax rates. This is possible due to decisions that have been made by your Board of Trustees to accelerate the payoff of some existing debt, thus creating additional debt capacity within our current tax rate structure.

The current debt tax rate is 33.5 cents and will not change. The tax rate is anticipated to remain stable for the next 5 years before beginning to decline. This projection assumes the District does not take on any additional debt in subsequent years or that property tax values do not decline significantly.

## What is a bond and why can't we pay for new schools, additions and upgrades of current facilities out of the district's annual maintenance and operating budget?

Bond money allows payments to be spread out over a period of years just like a home mortgage. Tyler ISD, like other districts, has a maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate and a debt service (I&S) tax rate. The maintenance and operations tax rate funds annual operating expenditures (salaries, utilities, etc.) while the debt service taxes pay off school bonds. If you were to purchase a new home using your annual income (or M&O funds), you would probably not have money left to cover your daily living expenses or furnish the home. This is also true with school districts. More than 80% of the district's general operating expenditures are used to fund staff salaries and benefits, which must be competitive to attract and retain quality teachers.

National studies indicate a strong correlation between the quality of facilities and the quality of student achievement.

Considering these factors, Tyler ISD has determined to call a bond election to fund these improvements.

## How was the decision made as to what would be included in this bond proposal?

When the 2004 Bond Program was presented to voters, a multi-phase master plan was also developed with elementary school facilities addressed in Phases 1 and 2. With the successful completion of these phases, our elementary facilities work is nearing completion. During the second phase (2008 Bond), six elementary campuses (Clarkston, Griffin, Jones, Orr, St. Louis and Woods) were identified for replacement. Due to cost saving measures, the District was able to include two additional projects. Owens and Birdwell elementary schools are currently undergoing renovations and additions with completion set for August 2011. The remaining two elementary campuses (Dixie and Rice) are slated to be addressed in the third phase.

As the Tyler population grows, the community has seen a rapid expansion of residential properties south and west of the city. This growth has created a need for an additional middle school campus in this area. Our current middle school facilities are all serving populations well beyond the original design capacity of the buildings. This is evidenced by the large number of portable classrooms housed on each campus.

To address this unmet need, the District recently purchased 29 acres of land in this area. This property is located near the intersection of Old Jacksonville Highway and Three Lakes Boulevard and would be easily accessible to the areas of significant growth. The aerial photograph to the right shows the property lines and adjacent roads.



## Rice Elementary School

**Current**  
 Year Built.....1978  
 Acreage.....11.66  
 Square Footage.....73,568  
 Portables.....4  
 Current FCI.....75.39%

**Proposed**  
 Sq. Footage Approx..... 110,000  
 Site.....To be determined  
 Projected Cost.....\$25,607,473\*  
 Capacity .....1000 students

\*The Rice Elementary projected costs include additional square footage for a larger student population and funds for temporary student relocation during construction.



## Proposed New Middle School

Sq. Footage Approx.185,000 - 200,000  
 Acreage.....29.58  
 Projected Cost .....\$44,043,418  
 Capacity .....1200