



Hutchinson Public Schools

USD 308

BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR STRONGER FUTURES

USD 308 is proposing a bond initiative with two key goals:

- **Help our youngest learners start strong** by streamlining early childhood programs and improving kindergarten readiness.
- **Strengthen middle school academics** by reducing transitions and improving continuity.

THE CHALLENGE

4 SCHOOLS IN 4 YEARS

- Students move between four buildings from 6th–9th grade, disrupting learning and relationships.

8 EARLY CHILDHOOD LOCATIONS

- Families navigate a scattered system; staff lose collaboration time and efficiency.

AGING ELEMENTARY FACILITIES

- Many lack storm shelters, modern safety features, and functional classrooms.

VOTE

ELECTION DAY:
Tuesday, November 4th

**IN PERSON
ADVANCED VOTING:**
Monday, October 20th

THE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS MOVE US FORWARD IN OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



STRONGER EARLY LEARNING

Leads to higher math and reading outcomes by 3rd grade.



A BETTER MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Establishes stability and strengthens academic growth.



SAFE, FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Maximize space and ensure safety and security.



EFFICIENT, RIGHT-SIZED FACILITIES

To lower operating costs and protect taxpayer investment.



MORE THAN BUILDINGS - A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

This proposal advances our mission and vision to prepare USD 308 for the future.

MISSION

Educating and empowering every Salthawk for life.

VISION

Today's students prepared for tomorrow's world.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

In 2023, the Board of Education brought together a 50-member Facilities Committee made up of community leaders, staff, parents, families, and educators. Their task: assess district building conditions and develop a long-term plan grounded in real needs.

Over 18 months, the committee worked to combine feedback gathered through surveys and more than 30 public events.

This work led to three key priorities:

- A new middle school for all 6th–8th grade students
- Safety and facility upgrades in all six elementary schools
- A centralized early childhood center for 3–4-year-olds

This bond is about more than buildings—it's about, aligning our facilities with how we teach, and **investing in what matters most: our kids, our schools, and the future of Hutchinson.**

WHY INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY MATTERS TO HUTCHINSON

When schools are strong, the community thrives. This bond is an **investment in Hutchinson's future**—better schools equate to better property values, workforce readiness, and community pride.

When children start strong in early learning, they enter kindergarten ready to succeed—setting the stage for higher graduation rates and greater earning potential in life.

BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF HUTCHINSON.
VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4TH

A BETTER LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

SOLUTION: A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR 6TH, 7TH, & 8TH GRADES

WHY A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL?

USD 308's current middle school structure places 6th graders in elementary schools, while 7th and 8th graders attend two separate campuses—forcing students to transition between four schools in three years. This fragmented approach disrupts learning and social development at a time when students need the most consistent support.

A new, unified middle school for 6th–8th grade students would:

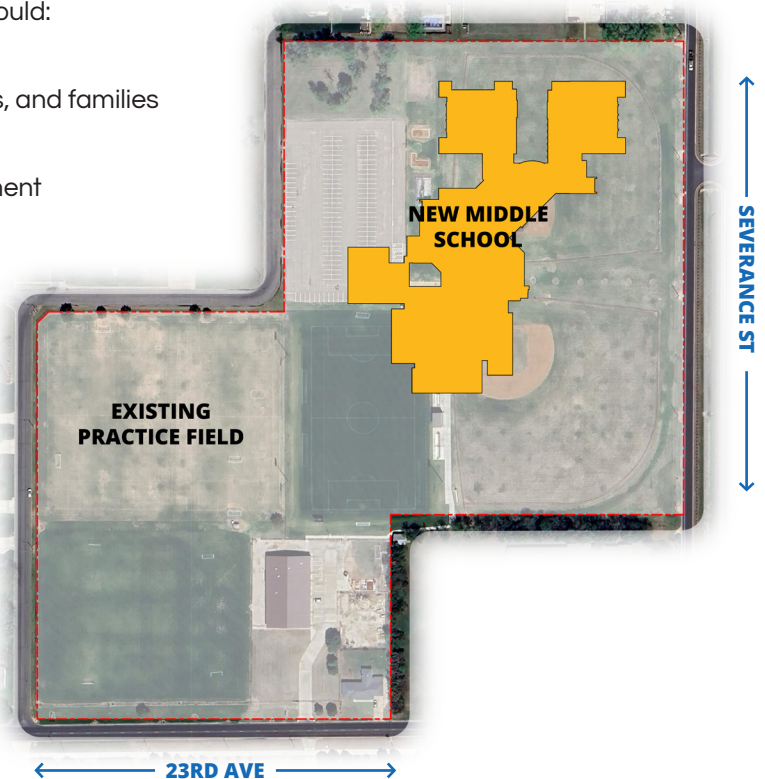
- Align with the district's K–5 and 6–12 curriculum model
- Foster stronger relationships among students, teachers, and families
- Support smoother transitions into high school
- Enhance academic readiness for high school achievement
- Create more access to extracurricular opportunities

WHAT THIS ENTAILS

The bond proposal includes:

- Construction of a new middle school designed specifically for 6th–8th grade learners
- Building modern, flexible classrooms that support collaboration, hands-on learning, and technology integration
- A full production kitchen
- A new competition gymnasium and an auxiliary gym designed to accommodate middle school and community youth sports.

The proposed new middle school would be built on district-owned property at 23rd & Severance—selected as the most effective site in the 14-square mile boundaries.



MAKING EVERY SCHOOL SAFE & EFFICIENT

SOLUTION: UPGRADES TO EVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Each USD 308 elementary school has its own culture and strengths—but not all buildings offer the same level of safety, comfort, or efficiency. Aging infrastructure, inconsistent safety features, and outdated systems create challenges that affect both teaching and learning.

This bond addresses those gaps by investing in every elementary building across the district.

Planned improvements include:

- Storm shelters for severe weather safety
- Secure entry upgrades to protect students and staff
- Kitchen equipment improvements to support daily operations
- Classroom updates and maintenance to create more consistent, functional learning environments

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ENSURE SEAMLESS ENTRY INTO USD 308

SOLUTION: AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Early childhood education lays the foundation for a lifetime of success—and USD 308 is committed to giving our youngest students the best possible start. But right now, the system is stretched thin.

Currently, Pre-K students and staff are spread across eight different locations in the district. This fragmented setup limits valuable face-to-face time with educational interventionists and makes it harder for staff to collaborate, plan, and deliver consistent, high-quality instruction. Close coordination among staff is essential for early intervention screenings, allowing challenges to be identified quickly and the right supports put in place when they matter most—ensuring students are prepared for kindergarten.

IT'S TIME TO BRING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION UNDER ONE ROOF.

By **repurposing the first floor of the current HMS 8 building**, USD 308 will create a centralized early childhood center designed specifically for children ages 3–4. This dedicated facility will include:

- Age-appropriate learning environments tailored to young children's needs
- Secure, single-point entry for safety
- Space for collaboration among teachers and specialists
- Room to expand Pre-K programming and better serve families across the community

Research shows that access to quality early education dramatically improves long-term outcomes for students and communities alike. This project ensures that Hutchinson's youngest learners—and their teachers—have the right environment to grow, thrive, and succeed from the very beginning.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

STUDENT SERVICES HUB

To improve efficiency and better serve students across the district, the 2nd and 3rd floors of HMS 8 will be repurposed to house the district's main offices and other educational services. This space will bring together key teams that support student learning and district operations, including:

- Special Education staff who provide critical services such as vision and hearing screenings, psychological and behavioral support, coaching, and leadership across the district
- District departments including curriculum support, finance, marketing, communications, human resources, and data analysis.


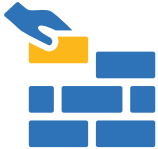



REPLACE ATHLETIC FIELDS AT 23RD & SEVERANCE

The new middle school will be built on the district's only available land at 23rd & Severance. As part of this project, the soccer and baseball fields will be relocated with significant upgrades to ensure students continue to enjoy first-class athletic facilities. The competition soccer field will move to Hutchinson High School near Don Michael Field, and the baseball fields will shift to Stremel Field at Carey Park.



BOND DETAILS

Based on community feedback, the facilities study, and input from staff, the Board of Education proposed the following:

NEW 6TH-8TH GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL		75%
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct a new middle school for all 6th–8th grade students Provide modern, flexible classrooms to support 21st-century learning Include a full production kitchen Create a unified middle school experience to strengthen academic performance 		\$82.9 MILLION
UPDATES TO ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS		14%
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade all six K–5 elementary buildings to ensure comfortable, safe, and efficient learning environments Add or enhance secure entries for student and staff safety Address critical maintenance needs across the district Upgrade kitchen equipment to support daily operations and meal service 		\$15.5 MILLION
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER		4%
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repurpose the first floor of the current HMS 8 building Create a centralized Pre-K center for ages 3–4 Provide age-appropriate learning spaces and secure entry Create a seamless transition into USD 308 		\$4.2 MILLION
STUDENT SERVICES HUB		5%
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repurpose the 2nd and 3rd floors of HMS 8 Centralize student services Improve access to district-wide support programs Create dedicated, welcoming spaces for student support 		\$5 MILLION
ATHLETIC FIELD REPLACEMENT		<2%
 <p>To allow space for the new middle school, the district will relocate existing athletic fields located at 23rd & Severance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The competition soccer field will move to HHS near Don Michael Field The baseball fields will move to Stremel Field at Carey Park 		\$1.9 MILLION

17% (18.6 Million) of the bond project will be paid by the state aid

ANTICIPATED TAXES ON A \$109,530,000 PROJECT

Median home value in Reno County is \$119,200, according to the US Census Bureau.

Source: Piper Sandler. Based on 25-year bond, Reno County property.

\$4.98/month
Average tax increase on
\$100,000 home

YOUR VOTE BUILDS COMMUNITY FOR STRONGER FUTURES ON NOV. 4TH

2025 BOND VS 2006 BOND

This is not the first time Hutchinson voters have invested in the future of our schools. In 2006, the community approved a bond that transformed Hutchinson High School and built the Career and Technical Education Academy (CTEA). When adjusted for inflation, that 2006 bond cost more than the proposal we are considering today.

By using district-owned land and receiving state aid, the 2025 bond proposal keeps costs lower for local taxpayers—while addressing critical needs in early childhood, middle school, and elementary facilities.

IN 2006	VS	IN 2025
\$78.8 Million (today's \$ = \$123.3M)	Total Cost	\$109.5 Million
4.6%	Interest Rate	4.7%
8.1 Mills	Mill Levy Increase	5.2 Mills

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: When is the election, and who can vote?

A: The election will be held Tuesday, November 4, 2025, and will be open to all registered voters in the USD 308 district. Early voting will begin Monday, October 20th, at the Reno County Annex. On election day, voters can cast their ballot at their typical precinct locations. For more voting information, visit <https://www.renocountyks.gov/Elections>.

Q: What is the amount of the bond?

A: The bond request is \$109,530,000.

Q: How were the bond projects determined?

A: The Board of Education and district staff continually evaluated the needs of the district. In 2023, a 50-member Facilities Committee—made up of community leaders, families, and educators—was formed to develop a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan.

This committee picked up where the HUSAC (Hutchinson USD 308 Strategic Advisory Committee) left off. HUSAC met from 2020 to 2022, laying important groundwork by assessing long-term facility and operational needs.

Together, these groups identified inefficiencies, gathered community input, and helped shape a plan that addresses both immediate challenges and future priorities. The Board of Education believes this bond package reflects that work and responsibly supports the long-term success of USD 308.

Q: How can bond funds be used?

A: Bond funds can only be used for constructing, equipping, maintaining and furnishing district facilities. This makes bond funds different from the district's operating funds that are used to pay salaries, textbooks and other day-to-day expenses. Bond funds can only be used for brick-and-mortar projects and cannot be legally used for anything else. This is an important distinction to remember. Bond funds and operational funds are separate and according to state law these funds cannot be used interchangeably.



LEARN MORE AT USD308.COM/BOND

Q: Can bond dollars be used to hire more teachers or lower class sizes?

A: Bond money cannot be used toward operating expenses, such as salaries to hire more teachers. Rather, bond funds are restricted for use on brick-and-mortar projects such as constructing, equipping, maintaining and furnishing district facilities. That means that any money raised through an approved bond issue cannot be used to pay for additional teachers or to lower class sizes. However, the money will be used to create better learning environments for students in the district.

Q: What buildings will be remodeled?

A: Every elementary school in USD 308 will receive upgrades based on its needs. Improvements may include storm shelters, secure entry upgrades, remodeled classrooms, safety enhancements, kitchen equipment updates, additional classrooms or multipurpose spaces, and general classroom renovations to create safer, more consistent, and functional learning environments.

Q: What buildings will be sold after the passage of the bond?

A: Four buildings would be put up for sale, lease, or demolition:

- Old Town Club, 200 East Sherman
- Administration Center, 1520 N. Plum
- Grandview Elementary, 1900 E. 4th
- Hutchinson Middle School 7, 210 E. Avenue A

USD 308 has a long history of being good stewards of the facilities it owns and will continue to fully maintain all properties until they are sold. This ensures that each building remains safe, secure, and usable throughout the transition process.

Q: When will the bond projects be completed?

A: While the full project timeline is still being finalized, work will begin as soon as possible following bond approval. One key advantage is that the district is using land it already owns, which saves both time and money by avoiding delays related to land acquisition.

For buildings that serve students and staff, construction will be carefully scheduled to minimize disruption to learning, with major work planned during school breaks and summer months.

Q: Why is the district proposing to move 6th grade to the middle school?

A: Moving 6th grade into a newly constructed middle school alongside 7th and 8th grade creates a more cohesive academic experience. Kansas academics standards are designed around a K–5 and 6–12 structure, so aligning grade levels with that framework ensures stronger instructional continuity and support. This move also provides 6th grade students with expanded access to academic and extracurricular opportunities in a facility built for their developmental needs.

Q: What will be the impact on my taxes?

A: USD 308 is proposing a 25-year bond funded through a 5-mill property tax increase. For a home valued at \$100,000, that's an estimated increase of \$4.98 per month.

This proposed increase helps fund improvements across the district, including a new middle school, upgrades to every elementary school building, and better early childhood and student support services.

Q: Will the Board of Education be available for questions?

A: Yes, please contact them anytime by either reaching out directly or submitting questions on the contact page at: www.usd308.com/bond.

SAVE THE DATE

The USD 308 Board of Education and Bond Steering Committee will be hosting several Community Information Nights to share details about the proposed bond, answer questions, and offer opportunities to tour facilities.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION NIGHTS:

October 1st & October 8th | 6:30-7:30PM
HMS 7 - 210 E. Avenue A

All are welcome to attend and learn how this bond proposal addresses critical facility needs across the district. Stay informed and be part of the conversation about the future of Hutchinson Public Schools.

Visit www.usd308.com/bond for updates.



Hutchinson Public Schools

USD 308

1520 North Plum
Hutchinson, KS 67501

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 13: Last Day to Register to Vote

October 20: Early Voting Starts – Reno County Annex

November 4: Election Day – *Your typical polling location*

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact a member of the Board of Education.

Learn more at

USD308.COM/BOND

BALLOT QUESTION

All registered voters residing within USD 308 are eligible to vote on the following question:

SHALL THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED?

Shall Unified School District No. 308, Reno County, Kansas (Hutchinson) (the “District”) be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$109,530,000 (the “Bonds”) to pay the costs to:

- (a) construct, furnish, and equip improvements at the District’s elementary school facilities, including safety and security improvements, storm shelter improvements, and additional classrooms and multipurpose spaces;
 - (b) construct, furnish, and equip a new 6–8 grade middle school facility, including a new practice field;
 - (c) construct, furnish, and equip renovations and improvements to repurpose the existing middle school building and create an Early Learning Center and Student Services facility;
 - (d) relocate the District’s baseball and soccer fields;
 - (e) construct, furnish, and equip other necessary renovations and improvements to District facilities;
 - (f) make and acquire all other necessary improvements related thereto (collectively the “Project”); and
 - (g) pay costs of issuance and interest on the Bonds during construction of the Project,
- all pursuant to Kansas state law.