



Jackson County School District

2021 Bond

Bond Election May 18, 2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What did the Jackson County Board of Education approve as part of the facility bond recommendation on February 22, 2021?

The below tables show the projects to be addressed at each attendance center with bond and ESSER Funds (Refer to Question 8 for more information on ESSER Funds).

East Central Attendance Central	ST. MARTIN ATTENDANCE CENTER	VANCLEAVE ATTENDANCE CENTER
East Central Lower Elementary	St. Martin North Elementary	Vanceleave Lower Elementary
1 New Gymnasium	1 Roof replacement	1 Flooring - Carpet Replacement
2 Replace Carpet with vinyl tile flooring	2 Replace exterior windows	2 New 20 classroom/cafeteria expansion
East Central Upper Elementary	3 Replace flooring	Vanceleave Upper Elementary
3 Entry/Admin Area/Library Ph 2 plus parking	4 Lighting/Ceiling	3 No Repairs Required with Creation of K-5 School
4 Completion of Upper's phased projects	5 Replace HVAC	Vanceleave Middle School
5 Replacement of windows in 3rd grade hall (asbestos)	St. Martin East Elementary	4 12 Classroom Addition
6 Replacement of Carpet & vinyl tile flooring	6 Atrium enclosure	5 Paving
East Central Middle School	7 Flooring	6 Drainage
7 Repair canopies (includes gym, cafeteria, & maintenance)	8 windows	7 Roof Repairs
East Central High School	9 Roof replacement	8 Windows
8 Carpet replacement with vinyl tile flooring	10 Lighting/Ceiling	9 Flooring - Tile Repair
9 Roof Replacement	11 HVAC Replacement	10 Flooring - Carpet Replacement
10 Multipurpose Building (band/chorus/activities)	St. Martin Upper Elementary	Vanceleave High School
11 New 500 seat auditorium	12 18 Classroom expansion on the end of the existing wings	11 New Band Hall
12 New admin offices	13 Restroom renovation	12 Multipurpose building
East Central Attendance Center	14 Hvac	13 Roof Repairs
13 New Maintenance/Bus Shop	15 Playground	14 Windows
East Central Athletics	St. Martin Middle	15 Flooring - Carpet Replacement
14 New Football field house (vs. necessary repairs)	16 Restroom renovation	16 HVAC Repairs/Replacement
15 Track Lighting	17 Band Hall and Choir room	17 Alternative School move to Business Office - Carpet Replacement
16 Track Restrooms & small concession	18 Roof replacement	Athletics
	19 HVAC replacement (and lighting in classrooms & corridors)	18 New football fieldhouse at football stadium
	St. Martin High School	19 New football entry/restroom/concession behind the home stands
	20 500 Seat Performing Arts Center, Choir room, and Drama room	20 New Baseball Field Grandstands
	21 Multipurpose gym, Health room, P.E. room, and Drivers Education room	Vanceleave Attendance Center
	22 Admin/Professional Development Center	21 Water Fountains Across the VAC (45 @ \$958)
	23 HVAC repairs (classrooms/office/gym/cafeteria/band hall)	22 Fire Alarm Repairs/Installs (VHS, VMS, VLE)
	Athletics	
	24 New softball field house	
	25 New baseball bleachers behind dugouts	
	26 New 2 story press box with concessions	
	27 Baseball restroom building with football visitors	
	28 Baseball field drainage	
	29 New home side football bleachers	
	30 New home side football restrooms and concessions	
	Cafeteria	
	31 SMMS Kitchen add power	
	32 SMHS Covered Outdoor Dining	

2. Why is this the right time to ask for a bond? What information did the Board of Education consider in making this decision?

- The Jackson County School District surveyed its constituents and received over 3,600 replies from parents, employees, students, and community members.
- Input was received from face-to-face meetings with community members and teachers – both collectively and individually.
- A professional [facility assessment](#) through a third party, Jacobs Engineering, was performed; the district has over 44 million dollars in deferred maintenance needs over 1.3 million square feet of buildings.
- A [demographic study](#) of the district’s student population across the entire district was performed. The district learned that the housing market is not predicting significant student growth, saving the district millions.
- The last capital improvement general obligation bond was in 1996, and before that, it was 1980.
- Interest rates are at historical lows.

3. How will the bond affect the typical taxpayer?

It is estimated the bond will cost the typical homeowner in the school district about 25 cents a day or about 100 dollars per year. To see how you may be affected, please see the below chart. To find out your assessed or true value, please use the link: [Property Value Link](#). When using the link, you ONLY need to provide information for ONE of the questions.

HOMEOWNER HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES			PROPERTY TAX INCREASE		
<i>(Potential Sale Price)</i>	<i>(Set by Tax Assessor)</i>	<i>(10% of True Value)</i>	<i>(7.5 mills)</i>	<i>(7.5 mills)</i>	<i>(7.5 mills)</i>
Home Market Value	Home True Value	Home Assessed Value	Annual	Monthly	Daily
\$25,000	\$21,250	\$2,125	\$15.94	\$1.33	\$0.04
\$50,000	\$42,500	\$4,250	\$31.88	\$2.66	\$0.09
\$75,000	\$63,750	\$6,375	\$47.81	\$3.98	\$0.13
\$100,000	\$85,000	\$8,500	\$63.75	\$5.31	\$0.17
\$125,000	\$106,250	\$10,625	\$79.69	\$6.64	\$0.22
\$150,000	\$127,500	\$12,750	\$95.63	\$7.97	\$0.26
\$175,000	\$148,750	\$14,875	\$111.56	\$9.30	\$0.31
\$200,000	\$170,000	\$17,000	\$127.50	\$10.63	\$0.35
\$225,000	\$191,250	\$19,125	\$143.44	\$11.95	\$0.39
\$250,000	\$212,500	\$21,250	\$159.38	\$13.28	\$0.44
\$275,000	\$233,750	\$23,375	\$175.31	\$14.61	\$0.48
\$300,000	\$255,000	\$25,500	\$191.25	\$15.94	\$0.52
<i>Actual avg. home true value in Jackson County School District is \$133,850</i>					

4. Why is Vancleave not receiving a performing arts center?

Each attendance center’s plan was developed using needs from the [Jacobs’ study](#), the [demographic study](#), and the input received from the people (parents, staff, and community members) of that attendance center. The emphasis for Vancleave was expanding the lower elementary to make a K-5 school and bring the students back together into a more centralized environment. However, the district realized that Vancleave would be the only attendance center without an auditorium. For this reason, three hundred thousand dollars from the district construction fund will be used to augment a facility in Vancleave to provide a suitable environment for practicing stage work.

5. How do Jackson County School District tax rates compare to other local school districts?

For 2019-2020, the Jackson County School District was one of only five districts on the coast to have no general obligation bond debt. While the proposed bond would be approximately 7.5 mills, this would still place the district’s bond millage below Long Beach, Ocean Springs, Gulfport, and Pearl River County Schools and near Hancock County:

District	Grade	Operating Mills	Debt		Total
			General Obligation (Bond)*	3 mill**	
LONG BEACH	A	55	13.7	3	71.7
OCEAN SPRINGS	A	55	9.87	1.58	66.45
PEARL RIVER COUNTY	B	54.25	9.84		64.09
GULFPORT	A	54.39	9.7	0.76	64.85
HANCOCK COUNTY	A	36.13	7.69	1.71	45.53
PASS CHRISTIAN	A	54.39	3.98	0.85	59.22
HARRISON COUNTY	A	49.2	3.18	2.53	54.91
STONE COUNTY	A	51.477	2.901	1.396	55.774
GEORGE COUNTY	B	42.38	2.16	2.24	46.78
MOSS POINT	D	54.6	1.38	2.8	58.78
PASCAGOULA	B	48.46	1.28	2.69	52.43
JACKSON COUNTY	A	54.45		2.81	57.26
PICAYUNE	B	56.94		1.9	58.84
POPLARVILLE	A	55		3	58
BAY ST. LOUIS/WAVELAND	A	45.99		1.52	47.51
BILOXI	A	41.42		1.95	43.37

* General obligation requires election with a 60% yes vote to pass

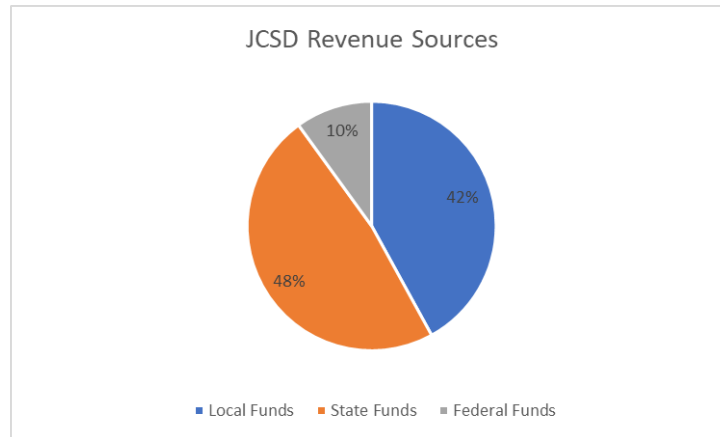
** 3 mill is capped at 3 mills and does not require an election

6. How long has it been since there has been a tax increase for schools?

The tax millage for Jackson County School District has actually **decreased** 5.15 mills over the past three fiscal years. For general obligation debt, the last election was held and passed in 1996 and before that, 1980.

7. Where does the revenue from other sources such as the lottery, 16th section, school fundraisers, etc., go?

Mississippi School Districts currently do not receive funding from the lottery. Funds obtained from school fundraisers become student activity funds and have legal spending restrictions. 16th section interest funds have been saved for the past several fiscal years and at any time may be transferred to the general fund and ultimately used for operations and/or construction. Revenues from 16th section interest funds generate roughly \$250,000-\$500,000 annually and currently carry a balance over two million dollars which the district plans to use for capital improvements.



8. Is it possible to use money from other sources instead of getting a bond?

Yes.

Jackson County School District will be receiving substantial funding – about 8 million dollars - through a second round of the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II). The district is planning to leverage much of these funds to improve air quality in schools and reduce the amount the district needs to borrow through the bond.

In addition to ESSER II, the school district has another six million dollars available in construction funds and two million dollars available in 16th section interest funds. The school board has authorized restroom renovations to begin across the district using these construction funds. The school district currently obligates two million dollars per year from general operating funds to the construction fund.

The district receives no other recurring funds to place into construction. It would take 30 years at two million dollars per year to accomplish these needs – many of which cannot wait that long.

9. Has there been a population growth for the school district that makes upgrades/expansions necessary?

Yes, particularly in the St. Martin attendance center. In fact, the Jackson County School District partnered with Frontier to provide a [demographic study](#) of the served population. The study concluded that while there has been and will continue to be growth in the district, new schools are not necessary.

The district also partnered with Jacobs to perform an [assessment](#) of the existing facilities. The study found there are deferred maintenance issues such as restrooms, HVAC, and roofs that need to be addressed in all three attendance centers.

10. Will the bond go towards salaries for any employees?

No. Salaries are paid from operations. Construction funds may NOT be used for salaries. Mississippi state law requires the expenditures from the bond to be laid out on the ballot.

11. How will the money from the bond be distributed amongst the three attendance centers in the district?

The funding is currently estimated to be distributed as follows: East Central (17.3 million dollars), St. Martin (25.1 million dollars), Vancleave (17.3 million dollars). This distribution is subject to change due to final bids received on individual projects. The remaining proceeds will be used to cover Career and Technical Education improvements, district-wide security initiatives, and mandatory bond related fees.

12. Why is the condition of facilities being brought up now?

Originally, facility conditions were discussed in 2016. To bring an objective viewpoint, the school district partnered with [Jacobs](#) Engineering in 2020. This report provided the district with essential data on its buildings. This report found that the district has over 44 million dollars of needs regarding deferred maintenance. Within five years, this will rise to over 100 million dollars. A bond is the **only** revenue source for capital funding. Because the district has not had a bond since 1996, capital improvements have occurred only through the use of the operations fund.

13. Is the school district's budget and spending available to the public for transparency?

Yes, the full budget is presented annually over the summer, and a public hearing is advertised and held each summer prior to the budget being adopted.

14. Will the proposed bond money be appropriately distributed or spent?

Great Question. The Jackson County School District invites the community to scrutinize the use of these funds.

Jackson County School District held numerous community meetings, staff meetings, online surveys, etc., to obtain suggestions on what projects were needed in the district. The district also had a [facility assessment](#) performed to ascertain the condition of each building and received a detailed list of recommended repairs. Additionally, the school district had a [demographic study](#) conducted to review the population trends of the district and to determine the facility growth needs.