

SCHOOL BOND FAQs

Q: What is a school bond?

A school bond is the school district's way of asking voters to approve spending on school infrastructure, including building new schools, improving current school facilities, and upgrading technology. Funds raised by a school bond must be used only on infrastructure—these dollars cannot be used for teachers or staff, or other program operating costs.

Q: What is capital funding?

This funding buys updated textbooks, technology, school buses, and keeps school systems like heating, cooling, roofs and plumbing running effectively and efficiently.

Q: Why does our school district need a school bond now?

State lawmakers reduced more than \$113 million from K-12 education this year. Sahuarita Unified School District had 85% in cuts to capital funding for this year. While the District works to ensure that funds are used to keep teachers in classrooms and vital programs available to our children, needed repairs to older schools, construction of new space, purchasing of new student transportation vehicles, are challenging. A bond provides funds for renovations, school construction, transportation and instructional equipment.

Q: What are the projects in the 2015 school bond measure?

Constructing new school facilities, classroom additions and modular replacements	\$22,500,00
Renovating and improving school facilities	\$8,500,000
Purchasing pupil transportation vehicles	\$4,000,000
Purchasing equipment and technology	\$3,500,000
Construction of learning center	\$1,500,000

Q: What is the cost per \$100 of assessed value?

Over the life of the bond, the average annual cost per \$100 of assessed value is 48 cents.

Q: How much money will the school bond raise?

Proposition 436 would generate \$40 million for major construction, remodeling projects, capital and student transportation. This would not be sold, or taxed, all at once, but over several years.

Q: How can I understand what that means for me personally as a homeowner?

The cost to the average Sahuarita homeowner is approximately \$60 per year or \$5 per month on the average assessed value of \$124,410. Homeowners may see a decrease in the tax impact due to the loss of the capital outlay override this year. Additionally, Sahuarita USD is opting to not use the adjacent ways tax levy this year resulting in a further tax decrease for homeowners. It is possible that homeowners will see no increase in tax levies for school related taxes for this year.

Q: What is the impact if the bond fails?

If this measure fails, the District will foreseeably have extremely limited resources to support capital outlay objectives, such as updated instructional resources like books and technology, furniture and equipment, keeping school building systems in sound condition, and purchase of pupil transportation vehicles. Second, the District will not have clear designated funds for supporting new construction to meet growth related needs of the next few years.

