

## Frequently Asked Questions/Answers

**Did every Iron Mountain Board of Education member vote in favor of this project?**

Yes.

**How many students are in the Iron Mountain school system K-12?**

*We have approximately 860 students in the entire EK-12 IMPS program. Roughly 710 of those students are receiving direct services, and about 150 of those students attend the Iron Mountain - Kingsford Community School Program at East Elementary School.*

**Would there be a specific parking lot for staff, students, and visitors as opposed to street parking?**

*There is a parking lot proposed for the shared campus. Further discussions regarding parking and traffic logistics are to be had at a later time.*

**What would the logistics of the traffic in the neighborhood look like?**

*Further discussions regarding parking and traffic logistics would be had at a later time.*

**East Elementary was recently remodeled. Why can't that school be used?**

*East Elementary School (located at 800 E. E Street, Iron Mountain) houses the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Community Schools Adult Education and Alternative Education programs as well as the Iron Mountain Public Schools Homeschool Partnership program. Both programs use the East Elementary School facilities to its capacity.*

**If passed, what is the timeline for the building project?**

*Three years, to begin Fall of 2023. Construction would be completed Spring of 2026.*

**Is North Elementary paid for? Would it be sold?**

*North Elementary School located at 900 5th Street, would be sold under the proposed plans.*

**What would happen to the Children's Museum?**

*The Imagination Factory Children's Museum would continue to be housed at 217 W. Hughitt and would continue to be provided as an educational resource for our students and to the public.*

**Has adding childcare services to the Early Education Center been considered?**

*Yes. We currently offer childcare through Iron Mountain-Kingsford Community Schools at North Elementary School. We hope to be able to add childcare to the Early Education Center, but we are not certain we could at this point in time due to spacing issues.*

**How can you effectively project the cost of this proposal?**

*The Board of Education and Superintendent Sardina have worked hand-in-hand with engineers and a general contractor who have provided the numbers and gathered the information needed to project the costs of the proposed project.*

**How many school districts in Michigan are contemplating this kind of request?**

*Gwinn Area Community Schools is a nearby school district recently seen in the news for contemplating a similar bond proposal: Other than Gwinn, we are not aware of what other school districts are doing.*

<https://www.miningjournal.net/news/front-page-news/2023/03/single-k-12-campus-considered-in-gwinn/>

**Would all the students use the Central Cafeteria or would the new buildings have proposed lunch rooms?**

*The elementary and early education center have proposed multi-purpose rooms that would be used for meal-times.*

**I own property in the city of Iron Mountain. May I vote on the May 2 bond proposal?**

*No. The location of your primary residence is where you have to register to vote.*

**What would happen to the “free space” in the high school, if grades 5-6 are moved?**

*The space is proposed to be renovated into a board room, a new student center, and special education space.*

**Why not propose a plan with one building housing grades EK-6?**

*By creating and providing a facility for the Early Education program and specialized building, we hope to attract families to the district and increase student enrollment with a program and services other school districts in our area do not currently offer.*

**How would there be a reduction in cost for bussing and custodial services?**

*By sharing a campus, we could decrease expenses for the district by eliminating valuable and expensive bus-drive time between locations during drop-off and pick-up and across town during special events such as assemblies. We would also be able to share resources such as custodial and food services across buildings with the proposed plans, which is not possible to do at this point in time.*

**How many administrators live in the city of Iron Mountain?**

*Many of our administrators do, however not all of them.*

**When North is sold, would funds go directly to retiring the school bonds or would these funds be distributed into the general fund?**

*A portion of the sale of the building would be used to pay off debt, whatever is remaining may go directly into improving other needs in the district not covered by the referendum.*

**Can new programming be offered in our current facilities or a less expensive facility?**

*We cannot offer new programming in our current facilities due to space constraints. The facilities proposed were designed to meet the needs of the new programming we wish to offer.*

**How would you attract quality teachers?**

*We use every available resource at our disposal to try and attract teachers to our district. The resources we use are several online tools that push job postings out to the universities. We also use print media, social media, radio, signage in our district, and our district website. Attracting quality teachers has not been a problem for IMPS.*

**The proposal means continued bond payments for 25 more years, what are the projections for student numbers in 5, 10, and 20 years?**

*Using an enrollment study, the projected enrollment K-12 five years from now shows enrollment to be between 552 (using the low projected ratio) and 687 (using the high projected ratio). The study does not provide numbers 10 and 20 years out due to environmental factors and factors beyond our control.*

**How much would asbestos abatement cost?**

*Asbestos abatement would be part of the demolition project of the old Central Middle School. The total cost of the demolition project is \$598,947. We do not have the exact cost for just asbestos abatement.*

**Was consideration given to an incremental approach for this project?**

*Yes. The school board does not feel it would be financially beneficial or responsible to break this project up over multiple years, which would require the district to request from the community multiple bond proposals. With the potential rising cost of construction and the possibility of increased interest rates, this project could cost more the longer into the future we project.*

**If passed, what would keep Kingford from doing something similar?**

*Nothing. We cannot control what another school district does.*

**What is the minimum cost to fix the building infrastructure systems?**

*We are working to try and put some estimates together. At this time we do not have any numbers to be able to present.*