

FALCONER NEWS

www.allendale.k12.mi.us

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****Please continue to check our website for the most up-to-date information on events taking place****

- August 1 Community Bond Info Night, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Boardroom
- August 12 Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
- August 14 Middle School Pictures/Schedule pick up, check website for times
- August 15 6th grade and Freshman Orientation, check website for times
- August 15 Back to School Fair, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Allendale Township Park
- August 15 Middle School and High School Picture/Schedule pick up, check website for times
- August 16 High School Pictures/Schedule pick up, check website for times
- August 21 Evergreen Open House, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM, Evergreen East and West Elementary
- August 21 Oakwood Open House, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Oakwood Intermediate
- August 22 Allendale Early Childhood Center, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM, Allendale Early Childhood Center
- August 26 Young Five – 12th grade, 1st day of school (half day)
- August 26 Board of Education Work Session, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
- August 27 High School/New Options Open House, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Allendale High School
- August 28 Middle School Open House, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Allendale Middle School
- August 30–September 2 No School, Young Five – 12th Grade, Labor Day Break
- September 3 School Resumes, Young Five – 12th Grade



School Meals reminder: 2024/2025 School Year brings Free Breakfast and Free Lunch to each student.

A meal is reimbursable only when a Fruit or Vegetable is on the tray.

Breakfast is served at each building cafeteria when students arrive:

AECC: 8:20AM- 8:44AM

Evergreen: 8:20AM -8:37AM

Oakwood: 8:10AM – 8:28AM

Middle – 7:15AM- 7:33AM

High/New Options – 7:10AM – 7:45AM

Lunch is served according to each student/class daily schedule.

*Don't Scrape the App! Please continue to fill out the School Meals and Summer EBT application.

Benefit status must be on record for the school year to qualify for other programs like summer EBT, Sports and AP testing fee reductions. It is best practice to have the application complete by October, however it is open all year. <https://allendale.familyportal.cloud>

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED PROJECTS



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



The demand for high-quality early childhood education has increased significantly, leading to a need for more learning spaces at the Early Childhood Center. To address the demand, this bond would feature:

- Classroom additions (8 rooms)
- Bus loop and parking lot expansion
- Main office renovation and expansion
- Accessible playgrounds
- Media center expansion
- Kitchen and dining area renovation and expansion

DISTRICT-WIDE

- Accessible ADA playground upgrades
- Select paving throughout district
- Select roofing replacements

HIGH SCHOOL

- New Industrial Arts/Skilled Trades space
- Expanded music storage areas
- Cafeteria renovation and expansion
- Kitchen/serving area renovation
- New food service office and storage areas

ATHLETICS



Allendale's wide range of sports programs has increased the need for year-round, modernized facilities. The bond would address space constraints and expand athletic and educational opportunities for the district and community. Upgrades would include:

- New field house with turf field, team rooms, weight room, storage and collaboration areas to provide year-round indoor space for athletic, music, educational and community programming
- Enhanced football stadium entry
- New tennis and pickleball courts (10)
- Additional parking at athletic fields and tennis courts
- CFAC parking expansion
- New and improved baseball and softball fields

NO TAX-RATE

Increase expected over last year's levy

\$88.27M

For district-wide improvements

VOTE BY

AUG 6, 2024



Aug. 6, 2024 Bond Proposal Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Looking to the future of Allendale Public Schools, our community will have an opportunity to vote on a school bond proposal on the Aug. 6, 2024 election ballot. If approved by voters, this bond proposal would provide \$88,270,000 for district-wide improvements with an expected **ZERO tax-rate increase**.

BOND BASICS

What is a bond proposal and how can funds from a bond be spent?

A bond proposal is how a public school district asks its community for authorization to borrow money to pay for capital expenditures. Voter-approved bond funds can be spent on projects identified in the proposal. Funds raised through the sale of bonds cannot be used on operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, textbooks or general maintenance. Bond funds must be kept separate from operating funds and must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

What was the process to determine what is in the bond proposal?

The District has methodically studied the current and projected needs of school buildings and educational programs to determine a facility master plan. Using this information, supplemented with staff and community input, district leaders and the Board of Education are now asking voters to consider a school bond proposal on the Aug. 6, 2024 ballot to address: safety and security, aging facilities and athletic improvements. For a detailed list of projects, see the district website.

Why are we considering this now?

In 2017, the Allendale community approved a bond to build the Early Childhood Center, agreeing to pay 12 mills in taxes until 2043. Thanks to careful fiscal management, including refinancing bonds and benefiting from community growth and rising property values, Allendale Public Schools has reduced the bond's term by nine years. This allows the district to propose a new bond on August 6, 2024, without increasing the 12 mills.

Delaying the proposed improvements by five to 10 years could significantly increase costs. By acting now, the district can make enhancements in 2025-2026 using funds that would otherwise be collected in 2035, thus maximizing APS' buying power. The district's goal is to continue being good stewards of taxpayers' money and further reduce the lifespan of the bond repayment.

How is a no tax-rate increase possible?

The current debt millage tax rate of 12 mills is expected to remain the same for next year, however, if the bond passes, the length of time needed to pay off the debt will be extended.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

How would the bond proposal impact my property tax rate?

If approved by voters, the Allendale debt millage rate is projected to remain the same as the current levy with no tax-rate increase to property owners. While the rate would remain the same, the length of time needed to pay off the debt would increase.

Would the approval of the bond proposal have any impact on our current operational budget?

While funding from this bond proposal is independent of district's general fund operating budget, the bond would have a positive impact on the district's general fund by allowing the district to reallocate some of the operating funds that are currently being spent on aging facilities, mechanical systems and technology. The operational savings generated from new and cost-efficient facilities could be redirected to student programs and resources.

Would money from the bond proposal be used to pay teachers' salaries and benefits?

No. School districts are not allowed to use funds from a bond for operating expenses such as teacher, administrator or employee salaries, routine maintenance or other operating costs. Bond proceeds can only be spent for purposes approved by the voters. Bond revenue must be kept separate from operating funds and all bond expenditures must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

How can voters be sure the bond funds would be spent the way they are supposed to be spent?

Michigan law requires that expenditure of bond proceeds be audited. The bond proceeds can only be spent for purposes approved by the voters. The bond proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses. An audit would be completed and filed with the Department of Treasury to ensure compliance.

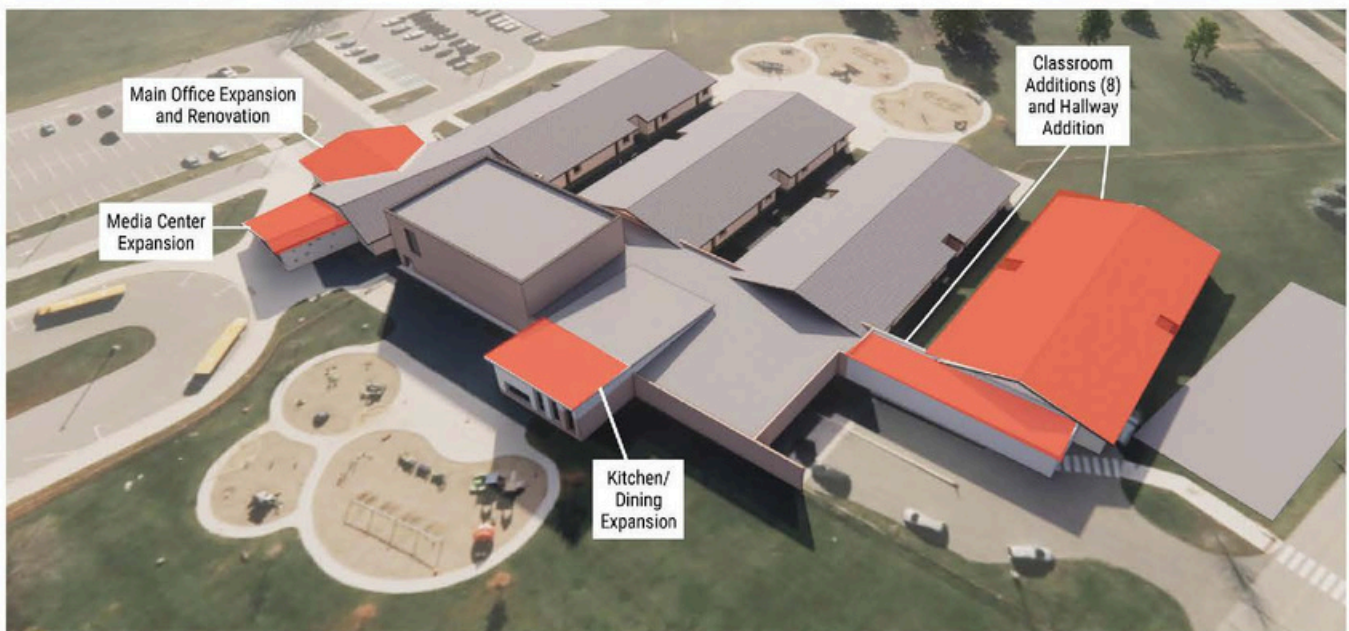
Are businesses and second homes (non-homestead property) and primary homes (homestead property) treated the same regarding bond millage?

Yes, businesses and second homes (non-homestead) and primary homes (homestead) are treated the same regarding bond millage. All properties are assessed for debt millage based on their taxable value.

BOND PROJECT INFORMATION

The Early Childhood Center was built in 2019, why do we need additional classrooms?

The demand for high-quality early childhood education has increased significantly, leading to a need for more learning spaces at the Early Childhood Center. This bond proposal would allow for the addition of eight classrooms. Since being built, we've already grown out of the ECC. This past year, four preschool classes had to be held at Evergreen Elementary. This proposed expansion would allow all pre-K through second grades to be under one roof, creating a sense of community from the beginning of their educational journey. See below for additional project information:



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

The demand for high-quality early childhood education has increased significantly, leading to a need for more learning spaces at the Early Childhood Center. To address the demand, this bond would feature:

- Classroom additions (8 rooms)
- Bus loop and parking lot expansion
- Main office renovation and expansion
- Accessible playgrounds
- Media center expansion
- Kitchen and dining area renovation and expansion

Why are we investing in our athletic facilities?

Allendale's wide range of sports programs has increased the need for year-round, modernized facilities. The bond would address space constraints and expand athletic and educational opportunities for the district and community. The bond includes the construction of an indoor turf fieldhouse for school and community use. The facility will feature team rooms, weight room, as well as storage and collaboration areas to provide year-round indoor space for athletic, music, educational and community programming. The expanded facilities will not only promote additional opportunities for student athletes, but also create a safer environment by alleviating overcrowded spaces.

Will the field house only be used for high school athletics?

No. The new turf field house will be available for both district and community use. In Allendale, especially during the winter, there are limited spaces for groups to practice, train, stay active, and collaborate. The construction of this new field house will provide a versatile space for a variety of activities, including marching band practice, youth sports (ASYO, Little League, etc...), physical education, exercise classes for all ages, and more.

Why tennis courts?

Allendale Public Schools remains the only district in its current athletic conference without a tennis team, simply because we do not have tennis courts. Consequently, some students have transferred to other schools to play tennis. Additionally, some of the new courts will feature lines for pickleball, which is growing in popularity in our community.

What oversights would hold the district accountable?

If approved by voters, the district's Architect/Engineer would design the proposed projects and prepare construction documents and specifications for the projects. Once the projects are designed, the district's Construction Manager will assemble bid packages and publicly advertise to solicit competitive bids for all work. This process is required by law as outlined in the Revised School Code. This process ensures that the district selects the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. All qualified contractors will have an opportunity to attend a pre-bid meeting to obtain additional information and project clarification. All qualified contractors will have the opportunity to participate in the competitive bid process.

At what point would the State of Michigan, as well as the local fire and police departments, provide input into the bond projects?

Each project will be required to be submitted to both the Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) and the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) for both plan review and permitting. These agencies will review the projects to ensure they comply with applicable codes, before any building permits are issued. Building plans and specifications must be signed and sealed by a Licensed Architect/Professional Engineer before submission. Michigan law also requires school districts to consult on the plans for the construction or major renovation regarding school safety issues with the law enforcement agency that is the first responder for that school building. This consultation would happen after a bond proposal has been approved by voters, before construction documents are finalized prior to project commencement.

VOTING INFORMATION

Am I eligible to vote?

To be eligible to register to vote you must be:

- A Michigan resident (at the time you register) and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days (when you vote)
- A United States citizen
- At least 18 years of age (when you vote)
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

How do I register to vote?

- Visit Michigan.gov/vote to register to vote online.
- It is recommended by the Secretary of State to register by mail by July 22, 2024 to participate in the Aug. 6, 2024 election.
- Individuals may also register in-person at their local clerk's office through Aug. 6, 2024 with the required documentation. For assistance in obtaining the address of your local clerk, visit Michigan.gov/vote.

If I rent a house, can I vote?

Yes, if you rent a house you can still vote. You must be a registered voter in the city or township you are living in and live within the school district's boundaries.

How is an absentee voter ballot obtained?

- Registered voters must complete and submit the application to receive their absentee voter ballot.
- To vote by mail, fill out the application and sign it, and then return it to your local clerk.
- For assistance in obtaining the address of your local clerk, visit Michigan.gov/vote.
- When filling out the application, if you check the box to be added to the permanent absentee voter list, you will get an application mailed to you before every election.
- If you registered to vote after absentee voter ballot applications were mailed, applications may be obtained at Michigan.gov/vote.
- Absentee voter ballots are available to the general public by June 27, 2024 through Election Day, Aug. 6, 2024

What are the key dates leading up to Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, election day?

Registering to vote:

- The last day for voters to register by mail is **July 22, 2024**
- Voters may register in-person through Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024 (Election Day) with the required documentation

Absentee Voting:

- Absentee voter ballots are to be made available by **June 27** until Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024
- Contact your local clerk with questions

Where and when will the vote occur?

- Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, is Election Day, but registered voters may vote early using an absentee ballot.
- Early in-person voting also will be available at some polling locations from July 27-Aug. 4. Visit michigan.gov/vote to identify which polling locations will be open and at what times.
- On Election Day, polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024.
- If you have questions or do not know where you vote, please contact your city/township office.

BALLOT VERBIAGE PROPOSAL

Shall Allendale Public Schools, Ottawa County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Eighty-Eight Million Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$88,270,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting additions to, including security improvements for, remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and reequipping school buildings; erecting, furnishing and equipping a field house and school support buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; purchasing school buses; and equipping, developing, and improving playgrounds, play fields, athletic fields and facilities, sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2025, under current law, is 2.04 mills (\$2.04 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0 mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 5.64 mills (\$5.64 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is \$13,174,930 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is \$19,562,570. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 18 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 10.06 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$56,975,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$20,031,759.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)



Summer Learning Camp

We had an exciting summer full of learning and building connections! During Summer Learning Camp, APS proudly offered opportunities

for over 90 students to strengthen their skills in reading and math. Primarily through small groups, Y5-8th grade students discovered new ways to grow their learning through focused instruction and enjoyable activities.



Staff members and student interns loved teaching, playing games, and connecting with students through reading, math, art, music, and physical education. Together, a sense of community was fostered as everyone worked together to enhance both academic and social skills. We sincerely thank the teachers, interns, transportation providers, families, and students for their commitment to Summer Learning Camp this year.



Allendale Students
& Families

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



& Backpacks

If you are in need of assistance for the 2023-24 school year, please register by August 8th at:

<https://loveincofneottawa.org/back-to-school-supplies-application/>



ALLENDALE'S ANNUAL

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

HOSTED BY:



Ripple Effect



THURSDAY **AUGUST 15**

ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP PARK

5:00 - 7:00 PM

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT WITH THIS FREE FAMILY EVENT!

FOOD TRUCKS, MUSIC, GIVEAWAYS AND MORE!

JOIN US FOR A GREAT EVENING OF FUN AND LEARNING!



Asbestos Management Plan

The Allendale School District has conducted an extensive asbestos survey of all our buildings. Based on the findings of the inspection, a comprehensive management plan was drafted. This plan details the response actions the district will be taking regarding asbestos containing materials found in our buildings. This plan is available for inspection at our offices without cost or restriction during business hours. If you would like a personal copy, please notify the District Office and it will be supplied to you within 5 working days. The District Office (Door A) is located on the south end of Oakwood Intermediate School at 10505 Learning Lane, or call (616) 892-5570. We have endeavored to make our schools a safe place in which students can learn. Our asbestos management procedures reflect that concern. Contact Gary Torno, Director of Operations, tornogar@apsfalcons.net or call (616) 892-3480 if you have any questions.

2024/2025 Advisory

To All Parents Dear Parent/Guardian: Allendale Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this is Allendale Public Schools' efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, this program does not rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pests from becoming a problem. As required by Michigan law, you will receive advanced notice of non-emergency application of a pesticide (insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide), other than bait or gel formulation, which is made to the school, school grounds, or buildings. This advance notice of a pesticide application will be given 48 hours before the application by the following two methods: 1) Posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are the main entrance and those that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot. 2) Posting in the common area located by the main office of the school.

Please note that notification is not given for use of Sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants or anti-microbial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be promptly notified following any such application, via the two posting methods identified (above). You may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request by contacting Gary Torno, Director of Operations at (616) 892-3480 or via email at tornogar@apsfalcons.net.

Parents or guardians of children attending Allendale Public Schools are also entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application, if they so request. If you would like to be notified by mail, please contact the Operations Department at andersonkat@apsfalcons.net. Please give your name, mailing address and what school(s) your child or children attend and they will put your name on the advance notification by US Mail list. Sincerely, Gary Torno, Director of Operations, (616) 892-3480, tornogar@apsfalcons.net

Americans with Disabilities Act

Allendale Public Schools will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In doing so, we will take reasonable measures to comply with all aspects of this Act. If anyone has comments or concerns, contact the Operations Dept. at 616-892-3480.

Non-Discrimination Notice

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, it is the policy of Allendale Public Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, height, weight, amnesty, or status as a covered veteran in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any grievance or complaint should be referred to Troy VanderLaan, Human Resource Director, Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator, 10505 Learning Lane, Allendale, MI 49401 *616-892-5570

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale District Office



Nicole Pierson

Pupil Accountant and Data Services

- Mrs. Pierson has been with APS 4 years.
- Mrs. Pierson is responsible for managing our student enrollments, pupil accounting and student records. She works very hard to support our families in getting students enrolled and helping provide records when needed.
- Mrs. Pierson enjoys camping, spending time with family and supporting her daughters' sporting events. She graduated from Grand Valley and then returned to Allendale in 2005 when she and her husband built a house here.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale District Office



Laura VanderMate

Registration Secretary and Bus Driver

- Mrs. VanderMate has been with APS 26 years.
- Mrs. VanderMate wears many hats for the district! She starts her day driving a bus route and then works for several hours in District Office before returning to the bus garage for an afternoon bus run. Mrs. VanderMate is a tremendous resource for Allendale families as she is the primary source for registering students and handling student records. She also is in charge of organizing lunch supervision across all of the buildings.
- Mrs. VanderMate loves to go camping and renovate vintage trailers. She also likes to go on cruises, she has traveled to Alaska and is looking forward to cruising in Panama this December. Mrs. VanderMate is also a "rock hound" and makes jewelry from the stones she finds.