

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Albert Lea Area Schools, ISD #241 is proposing a single question bond referendum on May 8, 2018 that would authorize \$24.615 million in bonding authority to finance facility upgrades at the High School / Hammer Field and a gymnasium addition along with a secure entrance at Halverson Elementary.

The largest project components are athletic field / stadium upgrades at Hammer Field. These include: a new entry plaza, concessions / ticket booth, artificial turf on the football field, bleachers, replacement of the existing structures adjacent to the football field, (that currently house locker rooms, training area, storage and meeting space) with a two story, 16,000 square foot fieldhouse that would house similar amenities, and other site improvements. Other proposed projects at the high school include finishing the pool locker room area and installing air conditioning in the existing high school gym.

The proposed projects would be scheduled for completion in the 2019 calendar year. Cost estimates by project type / location are as follows:

<b>High School / Hammer Field</b>	
Stadium Upgrades	\$ 3,828,500
Fieldhouse	\$ 3,674,885
Field Improvements	\$ 3,017,680
Site Improvements	\$ 2,460,000
Gym HVAC / Locker Room Upgrades	\$ 1,725,000
	<b>\$ 14,706,065</b>
<b>Halverson Elementary</b>	
Gym Addition / Secure Entrance	\$ 2,923,000
<b>Other Costs</b>	
Fees, Permits & Testing	\$ 3,771,595
Contingency	\$ 934,340
Capitalized Interest	\$ 1,915,119
Bond Issuance	\$ 364,881
	<b>\$ 6,985,935</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 24,615,000</b>

The district has supplied cost estimates for the operation and staffing costs of the additional building space and athletic facility upgrades and believes existing revenues will be sufficient to fund the operational cost increases. In addition, the school board believes the proposed projects the best long term interest of the district.

If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minn. Stat. § 123B.53, subd. 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and is dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements.

### REVIEW AND COMMENT STATEMENT

Based upon the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.

  
Dr. Brenda Cassellius  
Commissioner

March 27, 2018