

**The Commissioner of the Department of Education
Review and Comment on the School Construction
Proposal of Nevis Public School District, ISD #0308-01**

Nevis Public School District, ISD #0308-01, is proposing a three-question bond referendum on November 3, 2026. The first ballot question would authorize \$11.1 million in bonding authority to finance improvements to their PK-12 facility. The second ballot question would authorize \$6.05 million in bonding authority to finance additional facility improvements. The third ballot question would authorize \$425,000 in bonding authority to finance a bus garage. Passage of ballot questions 2 and 3 are contingent upon the passage of the first ballot question.

For the first ballot question, proposed building additions include space for Career Technical Education (CTE), a commons area, kindergarten and specialized classrooms. Proposed renovations would target the following areas: high school classrooms, administrative offices with a secure entrance, kitchen and cafeteria areas, and SPED spaces. Other proposed projects include playground improvements and boiler replacement. Cost estimates by project component for the first ballot question are as follows:

Ballot Question #1			
<u>Building Additions:</u>		<u>Renovations:</u>	
CTE Space / Commons Area	\$2,350,000	High School Classrooms	\$523,456
Kindergarten / Specialized Classrooms	\$1,808,400	Admin Offices / Secure Entry	\$415,992
	<u>\$4,158,400</u>	Kitchen / Cafeteria / Restrooms	\$1,746,530
<u>Other Project Costs:</u>		SPED Spaces	<u>\$263,951</u>
Relocated Playground	\$300,000		\$2,949,929
Boiler Replacement	\$700,000		
FF&E / Technology / Security	\$450,000		
Fees, Permits & Testing	\$2,286,851		
Contingencies	\$261,546		
Bond Issuance	<u>\$233,126</u>		
	<u>\$4,231,523</u>		
		Total Project Costs - Question #1	\$11,339,852

The second ballot question focuses on athletic facility improvements, including a gymnasium and fitness center addition, along with ancillary space. Cost estimates by project component for the second ballot question are as follows:

Ballot Question #2			
<u>Building Additions:</u>		<u>Other Project Costs:</u>	
Gymnasium	\$3,557,494	Fees, Permits & Testing	\$1,407,560
Fitness Center	\$675,000	Contingencies	\$160,386
Restrooms / Circulation Space	<u>\$253,550</u>	Bond Issuance	<u>\$127,038</u>
	<u>\$4,486,044</u>		\$1,694,984

The third ballot question would authorize funding of a new bus garage. Cost estimates by project component for the third ballot question are as follows:

Ballot Question #3	
New Bus Garage	\$313,939
Fees, Permits & Testing	\$99,955
Contingencies	\$9,167
Bond Issuance	<u>\$11,008</u>
	<u>\$434,069</u>

The proposed, voter-approved projects would be scheduled for completion in calendar years 2028 and 2029. In addition to the proposed referendum projects, the school board has also approved the issuance of \$8.07 million in non-voter approved, long term facility maintenance (LTFM) bonds to finance deferred maintenance, HVAC upgrades and roofing replacement projects

The district last went to the voters in April of 2025 with a single bond referendum that proposed similar projects. The 2025 referendum question was not approved by the voters.

K-12 enrollment at the district is currently around 550 students. The district expects enrollment to remain relatively stable over the next five years. The district expects that the energy efficiency gains from the LTFM-funded mechanical system improvements will be sufficient to offset any associated operational cost increases for the added building space. The proposed projects appear to be in the long-term interest of the school 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 Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.53, subdivision 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 on 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.



Willie L. Jett II
Commissioner

8/4/2026