



ARMADA
AREA SCHOOLS



AUGUST 5
**TECHNOLOGY & SAFETY
BOND PROPOSAL**

Q & A

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



586-784-2112



www.armadaschools.org and click
on *Tech & Safety Bond 2025*.

- Election Day is August 5.
- Absentee ballots are available after June 26 and can be cast through 8 p.m. on Election Day.



Bond Proposal Information

When is the election?

Election Day is August 5. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters who prefer to cast their ballots early can do so through absentee voting, which begins on June 26 and continues through Election Day.

For specific details on polling locations, absentee voting, or any other election-related questions, please contact your local clerk or visit www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting.

What is on the ballot?

A \$12.155 million zero-tax-rate increase bond proposal.

Bond proposal projects include enhancing technology systems and upgrading safety and security measures to create a safe and more effective learning environment for students and staff.

For more details on the specific projects and how the bond would impact our schools, visit the school district's website at www.armadaschools.org and click on *Tech & Safety Bond 2025*.

Why is the school district proposing a zero-tax-rate increase technology & safety bond?

The safety of our 1,800 Pre-K-12 students, 245 staff members, and countless visitors is a top priority for Armada Area Schools. With four school buildings serving the community, ensuring secure learning environments is essential.

Investing in safety, security, and technology upgrades is about modernizing facilities and proactively protecting students and staff. These improvements will help strengthen school safety through updated security systems, enhanced building access controls, and upgraded technology that supports emergency preparedness and response.

By prioritizing these projects, Armada Area Schools is taking a forward-thinking approach to creating a safe, more secure environment.



Bond Proposal Information

What is a bond?

A bond is a state-approved funding process for a set scope of large-scale projects, like building renovations, safety upgrades, technology enhancements, and other long-term improvements that annual operating budgets cannot cover.

Michigan school districts seek voter approval for bond proposals to complete large-scale projects that exceed the capacity of the operational budget or sinking fund revenue. Bond proposals cannot fund daily expenses like teacher salaries or classroom supplies.

Bond proposals allow schools to borrow money for these needs and repay it over time, typically through property taxes. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the bond sale proceeds to pay for those large-scale projects. Bonds are typically set up to be paid back in 20-30 years.

The bond proposal length for Armada Area Schools is 14 years.

How were bond proposal projects identified?

The safety of every student, staff member, and visitor who walks into Armada Area Schools is our top priority. That's why the school district has carefully prioritized projects that enhance security, ensuring our schools remain a safe and welcoming environment for learning.

Improving safety was part of the school district's strategic plan update in 2021. Bond proposal projects were identified through a comprehensive review that included previous incidents that have occurred locally and nationwide, communications with our safety committee, surveying of teachers and staff, and a thorough facility review.

Several Armada administrators have also visited other local school districts to explore and learn about the most effective school safety systems in use.



Bond Proposal Information

What will happen if voters don't approve the bond proposal?

The safety and security of our students and staff are of the utmost importance, and the need to strengthen that safety will not go away if the bond proposal is not approved. If voters do not approve the bond proposal, these projects would still need to be addressed, but the funding would have to come from the school district's operational budget or sinking fund.

The operational budget covers essential daily expenses like teacher salaries, classroom supplies, student programs, transportation, and utilities. The sinking fund is meant for small-scale facility improvements and upgrades. Redirecting them to cover safety upgrades or facility improvements would take valuable resources away from students and staff, ultimately impacting the quality of education.

How will the bond proposal projects be completed without increasing the current tax rate?

The 2025 bond would replace expiring debt (a previous loan from 2014 will be paid off in 2026). Once that happens, the tax dollars that were being used to make those payments will no longer be needed for that debt, so those funds can be used for a new bond instead, without increasing the tax rate.

Think of it like refinancing a mortgage: you're not increasing what you pay monthly, but you're extending the timeline to fund new improvements.

How will residents be informed about the bond proposal?

Armada Area Schools officials are sharing information about the bond proposal through community meetings, direct mailings, social media, the school district website, and the news media. To view a complete list of bond projects and learn more about the bond proposal, visit www.armadaschools.org and click on *Tech & Safety Bond 2025*.



Bond Proposal Projects

How will the proposal benefit residents who don't have students attending Armada Area Schools?

Strong schools benefit everyone in the community, not just families with students. Armada Area Schools facilities serve as important gathering spaces for residents of all ages, whether through community events, recreational programs, or local meetings. Investing in safety and security improvements ensures that these spaces remain accessible, secure, and welcoming for all.

Beyond direct facility use, the strength of our schools plays a critical role in maintaining property values and the overall vitality of our community. Research shows that high-quality schools attract families and businesses, making the community a more desirable place to live, work, and invest in. This bond proposal is an investment in the long-term stability and appeal of our area, benefiting all residents, regardless of whether they have children in the school district.

We recently completed safety upgrades as part of the 2023 bond. How does the 2025 bond continue that work?

The 2023 bond supported foundational safety improvements, including secure front entrances at the Academy and High School, re-keying doors, and installing emergency generators.

The 2025 bond builds on that progress by focusing on safety inside the buildings. Proposed upgrades include interior door access control systems, security film on classroom windows, a district-wide lockdown system, updated PA and camera systems, door sensors, a passive threat detection system, an enhanced visitor check-in system, and a communication network that connects all schools. Together, these enhancements create a more layered and responsive safety system for students and staff.

How will classroom technology be upgraded?

Every classroom in Armada Area Schools is equipped with student devices supported by mobile charging carts. Outdated technology will be replaced, and improvements to the wireless network and servers will ensure faster, more reliable access to digital tools —giving students and teachers the tech they need to succeed.



Bond Proposal Projects

How will new high-resolution cameras make the school district safe?

All 212 cameras in the school district's four schools will be upgraded to high-resolution, cloud-based systems. These new cameras offer unlimited storage, remote access for authorized personnel, and other advanced features.

Cameras will monitor both indoor and outdoor areas—including entrances, parking lots, and athletic facilities—and integrate with door alarms for enhanced security.

How will Armada Area Schools make school entrances more secure?

All main entrances will be secured and monitored to ensure that only authorized individuals can enter.

Staff will use swipe cards for secure, efficient access, while visitors must request entry via a monitored intercom system, allowing staff to verify identity before being granted access.

How will a Crisis Alert System improve emergency response?

The bond proposal will fund a Crisis Alert System to improve emergency response and campus safety. With the press of a button, staff can instantly alert administrators and responders, who receive a map showing who needs help and where they're located on campus.

In critical situations, the system triggers campus-wide audio and visual alerts, ensuring everyone is informed immediately. It also notifies safety teams and can be integrated with emergency services for a faster, more coordinated response.



Bond Proposal Projects

How will a visitor management system enhance safety?

A Guest & Visitor Management System will be installed to enhance safety and simplify check-ins. Visitors will sign in electronically and receive printed ID badges.

Integrated with PowerSchool, the system ensures that only approved individuals can access student areas. Automated background checks add an extra layer of security, helping maintain a safe, well-monitored environment.

How does security film on windows add an extra layer of protection?

This specialized film strengthens glass, making it more resistant to breakage or forced entry.

In an emergency, it helps delay intruders, giving students and staff valuable time to respond. The film remains clear, maintaining visibility and natural light in learning spaces.

How will unauthorized access be prevented?

Armada Area Schools will install door sensor alarms across all buildings to strengthen school security for real-time monitoring and alerting. These sensors work with security cameras to provide instant visual verification when triggered.

Alarms can send silent or audible alerts, depending on the situation. After hours, doors are monitored remotely, and any breach sends immediate notifications to safety officers and administrators for a quick response.

How will AI threat detection systems improve school safety without disrupting the day?

A passive AI threat detection system will enhance security while maintaining a smooth daily activity flow. This system screens individuals without requiring bag removal, offering fast, non-invasive checks.

Lightweight and portable, it can be set up in under a minute for use at school entrances or special events. Minimal false alarms and high scanning speed ensure strong security and minimal disruption.



Bond Proposal Projects

How will a new PA system improve emergency communications in the schools?

The bond proposal will upgrade the PA system to integrate with the school district's Safety Alert System. It delivers audio, visual, and digital alerts—ensuring everyone, including those with hearing impairments, stays informed.

The system supports pre-recorded emergency messages and can be controlled from classrooms, radios, or mobile devices. Real-time mapping and user identification enhance coordination and speed during emergencies.

How will school-wide communication be enhanced?

Armada Area Schools will upgrade to a Digital Smart Radio System to strengthen real-time communication and district-wide security. These radios will integrate with cameras, door alarms, and alert systems for faster emergency coordination.

With improved signal strength, staff can communicate clearly across all areas of the school district. The system can also connect directly to first responders, helping ensure quicker, more effective responses in critical situations.

What additional safety upgrades will be included with the bond proposal?

To further protect students and staff, the bond proposal will add new safety measures across the school district. Secure fencing will enclose the preschool and fully surround the elementary playground, ensuring safe play areas for younger students.

A fenced perimeter will also be added to the Building Trades outdoor work area, keeping hands-on projects secure. At the high school, new lighting in the bus loop will enhance visibility and safety during early morning and evening hours.



Bond Proposal Language

What is the exact language of the technology & safety bond proposal?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Armada Area Schools, Macomb and St. Clair Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twelve Million One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$12,155,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and refurbishing school buildings; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; and developing, improving and equipping 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 0 mill (\$0.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is fourteen (14) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.22 mills (\$1.22 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 \$1,787,442 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is \$2,157,068. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 10 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 7 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$45,730,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$7,564,651.

(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.)

By law, bonds can only be used for projects identified in the ballot language.

The new bond will be a ZERO increase over the current levy.

Public school districts typically issue bonds to finance long-term capital needs.

The length of the bond will be 14 years.

Bonds cannot be used to repair or maintain facilities, or cover employee salaries or operating costs.



Voting Information

18+

Who can vote in the election?

Residents of Armada Area Schools who will be 18 or older on Election Day and are registered to vote can vote in this election.

VOTE



Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, absentee voting, and nine days of early voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (www.michigan.gov/vote) or call your local clerk's office.

Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or your local clerk's office.



Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from your clerk's office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on *Vote at home*. Applicants will receive an absentee ballot in the mail.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters six weeks prior to Election Day and can be cast through Election Day.



Where can I get more information about the bond proposal?

For a complete list of projects, visit the school district website at www.armadaschools.org and click on *Tech & Safety Bond 2025*



Where can I share my thoughts on the bond proposal?

All citizens are encouraged to share their thoughts on the bond proposal by visiting www.research.net/r/ArmadaTechSafetyBondProposal or by scanning the QR code.





Serves Grades K-5
Built in 1999
118,759 Total Sq. Ft.

Krause Elementary

Technology

- Replacing the phone system
- Installing a new firewall
- Refreshing battery backup units
- Replacing the wireless network infrastructure
- Refreshing computer servers
- Replacing instructional technology (document cameras & projectors)
- Replacing teacher, admin, & office desktop computers
- Replacing student Chromebooks
- Purchasing Chromebook carts to charge student devices
- Replacing teacher & admin laptops
- Replacing classroom printers
- Upgrading classroom audio systems
- Purchasing new copiers

Safety & Security

- Installing classroom door window film
- Installing a security lockdown system
- Replacing security cameras
- Installing door access controls on all classrooms & offices
- Replacing the PA system
- Installing a Passive AI Weapons Detection System
- Installing exterior door alarm system/sensors
- Purchasing radios for district security & system
- Installing communication system for district radios
- Enhancing the visitor management system
- Installing fencing around the Child Care Area
- Replacing the playground fencing and driveway gates



Armada Middle School

Serves Grades 6-8
Built in 1955
82,700 Total Sq. Ft.

Technology

- Replacing the phone system
- Installing a new firewall
- Refreshing battery backup units
- Replacing the wireless network infrastructure
- Refreshing computer servers
- Replacing instructional technology (document cameras & projectors)
- Replacing teacher, admin, & office desktop computers
- Replacing student Chromebooks
- Purchasing Chromebook carts to charge student devices
- Replacing teacher & admin laptops
- Replacing classroom printers
- Upgrading classroom audio systems
- Purchasing new copiers

Safety & Security

- Installing classroom door window film
- Installing a security lockdown system
- Replacing security cameras
- Installing door access controls on all classrooms & offices
- Replacing the PA system
- Installing a Passive AI Weapons Detection System
- Installing exterior door alarm system/sensors
- Purchasing radios for district security & system
- Installing communication system for district radios
- Enhancing the visitor management system



Armada High School

Serves Grades 9-12
Built in 1976
131,252 Total Sq. Ft.

Technology

- Replacing the phone system
- Installing a new firewall
- Refreshing battery backup units
- Replacing the wireless network infrastructure
- Refreshing computer servers
- Replacing instructional technology (document cameras & projectors)
- Replacing teacher, admin, & office desktop computers
- Replacing student Chromebooks
- Purchasing Chromebook carts to charge student devices
- Replacing teacher & admin laptops
- Replacing classroom printers
- Upgrading classroom audio systems
- Purchasing new copiers

Safety & Security

- Installing classroom door window film
- Installing a security lockdown system
- Replacing security cameras
- Installing door access controls on all classrooms & offices
- Replacing the PA system
- Installing a Passive AI Weapons Detection System
- Installing exterior door alarm system/sensors
- Purchasing radios for district security & system
- Installing communication system for district radios
- Enhancing the visitor management system
- Installing fencing with electronic gates at the Shop
- Replacing parking lot lights on the student driveway



Academy & Administration Center

Serves Grades 9-12 &
Administrative Offices
Built in 1929
54,964 Total Sq. Ft.

Technology

- Replacing the phone system
- Installing a new firewall
- Refreshing battery backup units
- Replacing the wireless network infrastructure
- Refreshing computer servers
- Replacing instructional technology (document cameras & projectors)
- Replacing teacher, admin, & office desktop computers
- Replacing student Chromebooks
- Purchasing Chromebook carts to charge student devices
- Replacing teacher & admin laptops
- Replacing classroom printers
- Upgrading classroom audio systems
- Purchasing new copiers

Safety & Security

- Installing classroom door window film
- Installing a security lockdown system
- Replacing security cameras
- Installing door access controls on all classrooms & offices
- Replacing the PA system
- Installing a Passive AI Weapons Detection System
- Installing exterior door alarm system/sensors
- Purchasing radios for district security & system
- Installing communication system for district radios
- Enhancing the visitor management system