

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: *Why isn't the district planning for consolidation?***

**A:** The District only borders one other Illinois school District: Galena. It has been determined that if the districts consolidated, taxes for East Dubuque district residents would significantly increase due to a much different Collective Bargaining Agreement in Galena vs. East Dubuque.

**Q: *What is the enrollment, and how is it changing?***

**A:** The enrollment is currently 696 students, the second highest of all districts in the county and enrollment has been stable for over a decade.

2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
684	693	696	713	718	704	679	705	683	709	690	671

**Q: *Why do we need to do this?***

**A:** The current elementary school has many safety, security, and curriculum needs. The Illinois Health/Life Safety program has identified several needed investments in the facilities specific to the building's function as a school. The District leaders asked the community to advise them on a vision for the future of the District so that needed investments can be made in a strategic proactive way rather than reactive. The community has asked the District to proceed in this direction. Furthermore, this helps ensure the stability of the District while becoming more attractive to families looking to relocate.

**Q: *I went to school here and it was good enough for me, why isn't it good enough now?***

**A:** When many of you went to school here, these buildings were new. They have been maintained, but education has changed in many ways. Curriculum changes, lesson delivery, technology, students with special needs, and many other factors have driven this change.

**Q: *My taxes are high enough already, why should I agree to this?***

**A:** The East Dubuque school taxes are one of the lowest in the state. If we want our students to be positioned to compete with other students for jobs and college placement, we owe it to them to provide appropriate facilities.

**Q: *How will this investment guarantee student achievement improvement?***

**A:** The East Dubuque school district has the lowest cost per student in the county and one of the lowest in the state. Statistics show that there is a return on investment in spending for education, however, there is no guarantee.

**Q: *Why isn't a new high school athletic gym included?***

**A:** The referendum is about going to one campus by bringing the elementary school students to the high school/middle school site. Only conceptual design solutions have been studied. The district is not investing in design services at this time. When the voters approve a referendum, then those investments will be made and more detailed designs will be developed with user and stakeholder input.

**Q: *Why isn't a new auditorium included?***

**A:** The outcome of the advisory task force recommendation and the community wide survey was to consolidate onto one campus at the HS/MS site. There is already a performance space in the HS/MS and support for a new auditorium was minimal in the public input process.

**Q: *How has the city population decline affected the school district?***

**A:** The school district's enrollment has been steady for over a decade. The decline has not affected the student enrollment. Individuals may have moved out of the city limits but still live in the district.

**Q: *What does this do for teacher retention?***

**A:** Quality teachers are more likely to stay in a school district that values them and provide quality learning environments for them to teach in.

**Q: *What does this do for family retention?***

**A:** The main factor in families choosing a place to live is the quality of the schools. Quality facilities are visible and are proven to attract and retain families.

**Q: *Is it true that we only have one gymnasium in this district?***

**A:** By definition, design, and space, yes, we only have one space that would qualify as a gymnasium in East Dubuque. We have spaces that can be utilized for physical education or as a multipurpose room, but there is only one space that can be used for certain types of competition completely limiting this community.

**Q: *What is the District's per student spending and will this referendum change that?***

**A:** East Dubuque's per student spending is \$8,877. It is the lowest in the county. The referendum will not effect the cost per student.

**Q: *What does this do for safety and security for our district?***

**A:** The plan provides for a safer environment through the buildings with more secure entrances and will incorporate a sprinkler system throughout the building.

**Q: *What is the change in operational cost with going to one campus?***

**A:** The obvious areas of savings would be in resources and materials. The hidden savings would be in becoming a more efficient district. Efficiency is tough to measure. The bigger picture is saving money in operational costs. When you only have to outfit one building instead of two or three, you do not need to duplicate certain supplies or materials. You would be able to reduce the number of classroom supplies, cleaning supplies, and kitchen supplies. You would have one system for heating and cooling, IT infrastructure, lighting, phones, air control, and safety. Each department could cut redundancies. Maintenance and custodial staff could share resources, the district would be able to reduce the number of copy machines, printers, books, office supplies, and devices, and there would be less wear and tear on vehicles going back and forth between buildings. The savings would give us more money to spend on instruction, and we would also gain time back because staff members aren't traveling between buildings. Accountability improves as well as instructional time and therefore, outcomes. Efficiency would be higher across the board. That means better use of time, more program offerings, and an overall better education for the students of East Dubuque.