

School Bond Finances Substantial Improvements for Ashland-Greenwood (NE) School District



Key Facts:

- In order to keep up with substantial annual growth in population since 2010, Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools (NE) decided to pursue up to a \$59 million dollar school bond issuance to fund expansion due to overcrowded facilities
- At a low cost to taxpayers, the bonds would fund 3 new buildings, including a new middle school, elementary school and a new performing arts center
- Referendum passed in November 2020 with nearly 60% voting to approve issuance
- Issuance underwritten by DA Davidson

Background

The Ashland-Greenwood Public school district, a quickly growing area covering portions of Saunders, Cass, and Sarpy County in eastern Nebraska, needed more school space to ensure its residents continue receiving quality education in schools that can handle the robust population growth. **Due to many new developments in the area, the tax assessment base during the last 10 years increased by 6% annually.**

- This robust growth caused in some cases extreme overcapacity in local schools;
- Elementary education facilities were over 17% over capacity
- Secondary education facilities nearly 3% overcapacity.

Project Details

- The issuance as voted on, creates 3 new state of the art facilities:
- PreK-2nd grade building
- Middle School building (master planned to become the future High School)
- Performing Arts Center attached to new Middle School

The project will also address such items as sewer, water, power, and retrofit streets and roadways to ensure connecting and existing streets allow traffic flow and movement to remain unchanged.

Bond Issuance Details:

The School District opted to issue up to \$59 million in school bonds with a 30 year maturity, to be paid for with a small property tax levy of .02 cents. The issuance would wrap current bonds into the new issuance, while simultaneously eliminating the special building fund that was already in existence. The issuance fully streamlined the financing stream for the school construction and improvements, allowing the school district more flexibility on scope and timing. This also allows the district to decrease the levy in future years if the District valuation increases—saving taxpayers the maximum amount over the life of the bond.

