

Bond Facts

Build a New Meridian Middle School (5-8)

Originally constructed in 1938, Meridian Middle School is no longer able to keep up with today's safety standards and the needs of modern education. The school faces safety challenges including unconnected buildings, exterior entrances, and non-reinforced concrete walls which lack rebar. A new school would comply with modern safety codes, including seismic requirements, and meet accessibility standards creating a safer space. Energy-efficiency would be built into the design, ensuring comfortable classrooms year-round that would improve student focus and learning.

Cost: \$86.92 million
 State match: -\$16 million
Bond Cost: \$70.92 million

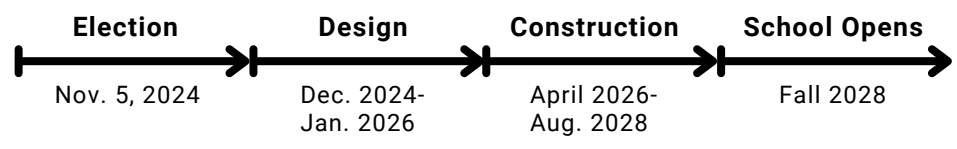
Numbers for cost and state match are estimates.

Watch Video



Timeline

Estimated timeline, if bond is approved by voters.



MHS Performing Arts Center

- Built in 1991
- Needs a new roof
- Masonry in need of repointing and resealing
- Move music room to old cafeteria to create closed campus

Bond Cost: \$2.18 million

MHS New Generator

- Emergency power for the office, library, main building, CTE building, north gym and locker rooms during outages
- Provide emergency power to prevent freezing pipes

Bond Cost: \$400,000

MHS Stadium Lighting and Repairs

- Lighting installed in 1987
- Beyond useful life expectancy
- Some light fixtures do not work
- Poles are leaning and rotting
- Existing stadium structure has rotting beams
- New roof needed

Bond Cost: \$1.50 million



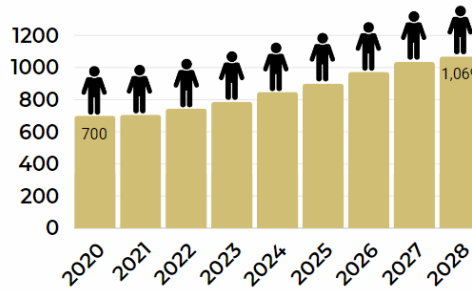
Bond Webpage

Our Community is Growing

Our growing community means our school enrollment is increasing. Meridian Middle School, currently designed for 380 students, will need to accommodate nearly 500 by 2030. Irene Reither Elementary, with over 750 students, is projected to exceed 1,000 by 2028. To address this, we would construct a new middle school for grades 5-8.

This approach, previously used when Meridian Middle School housed fifth graders from 1976-1991, balances the K-12 experience and relieves overcrowding at IRE. If voters approve the bond, a design committee will involve families, students, staff, and community members in the process.

Irene Reither Elementary Enrollment Projections



Bond Cost

*All amounts are estimates for at the time of construction.

Meridian Middle School (5-8)	\$86.92 million
<i>Estimated State Match</i>	<i>-\$16 million</i>
Performing Arts Center	\$2.18 million
Stadium and Lighting	\$1.50 million
MHS Generator	\$400,000
Total Bond Amount	\$75 million

Learn More

Looking for more information? Visit our website at www.meridian.wednet.edu/bond/ or call 360-398-7111.

How to Vote

Voters within Meridian School District will receive a ballot in the mail in October to vote on the bond. Ballots must be mailed and postmarked, or returned to a drop box by 8 p.m. Nov. 5, 2024. Drop box locations can be found on the Whatcom County Auditor's website.

Tax Exemptions

Some senior citizens and people with disabilities may be eligible for property tax exemptions, visit: whatcomcounty.us/177/Assessor or call 360-778-5050 to learn more.

Financial Impact

The total bond cost of the projects is \$75 million. If approved by voters, the tax rate would increase by \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed value (see graphic right for example).

	EP&O Levy	Tech Levy	2010 Bond	2024 Bond	Total Tax Rate*
2025	\$2.10	\$0.38	\$0.52	\$1.38	\$4.38



*Estimated total school district combined bond and levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value.