Dear APS Community Members,

This year, Aurora Public Schools continues to improve our schools and instructional programs thanks to bond and mill levy funds approved by Aurora voters in 2008. This report provides information about how we’re keeping our word to voters to spend bond and mill levy dollars as we promised.

Our $215 million bond program is on time and under-budget. APS has saved more than $33 million to date due to careful financial management and a competitive construction market. Ultimately, this savings will allow us to add construction and technology improvement projects to the current program—and go above and beyond our promise to voters.

APS bond projects are resulting in improvements at every school in our district. Bond dollars are building new schools, remodeling older schools, and funding building, energy efficiency and technology upgrades. Our goal is to ensure that every student benefits by providing modern, comfortable schools that promote academic achievement.

The mill levy provides $14.7 million annually to fund programs that accelerate student achievement. For example, the mill levy has funded free full-day kindergarten at APS elementary and K-8 schools. These funds have also enabled us to continue successful programs, such as Truancy Intervention, Fifth Block of instruction and Pilot Schools, as well as expand our International Baccalaureate program at additional schools. The mill levy has also supported new instructional technology in APS schools and APS charter schools.

We encourage you to visit our schools and see your bond and mill levy dollars at work. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our students.

Sincerely,
John L. Barry, Superintendent
and the APS Board of Education
Schools Welcome Bond Improvements

Thanks to the bond program, APS schools are receiving improvements ranging from full remodels to new playground equipment.

In August 2010, APS opened Vista PEAK Exploratory P-8, a new preschool through eighth-grade school on the APS P-20 Campus in east Aurora. Vista PEAK Preparatory, a new high school, is scheduled to open in August 2011 on the same campus. Vista PEAK Preparatory will serve 9th and 10th graders in its opening year and add 11th and 12th grades in the following two years.

At Aurora Central High School, APS completed a new eight-classroom addition that includes state-of-the-art science classrooms. Laredo and Wheeling elementary schools both received new gymnasium additions to replace combined cafeteria/gymnasiums. Columbia Middle School received heating, air conditioning and mechanical repairs and new carpet throughout the building.

The Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, comprised of Aurora community members, provides an independent review of the bond program to ensure public accountability. To learn more about APS bond projects, go to bond.aurorak12.org.

Bond projects underway or planned in the 2010-11 school year include:

- Meadowood Child Development Center – a preschool center for children ages 3 to 5
- Side Creek Elementary – a new heating and air conditioning system to replace the original system installed in 1987
- Virginia Court Elementary – a two-classroom addition to meet student enrollment growth
- Aurora Hills Middle School – a new building to replace a 1972 school built without windows and classroom walls
- Vista PEAK Preparatory – a high school located on the P-20 Campus

“I am excited about our new school because we’ll have new classrooms, a new media center and new computers. I really want to say thanks to the voters for all you’ve done for students.”

- Melissa, Aurora Hills Middle School student

Aurora Hills students break ground on their new school.
The bond program is bringing more than $13.6 million in technology improvements to APS schools and APS charter schools. APS charter schools will make key technology purchases. In APS schools technology projects include:

- **LAN/WAN Network Upgrade (Status: complete)**
  A 34-mile long fiber-optic network to connect APS schools and administrative sites and provide a long-term solution to the increased demand for data and faster connectivity

- **Telephone and Voice over Internet Protocol (Status: underway)**
  Replacement of the district’s 17-year-old telephone system with new telephones and a Voice over IP system to improve reliability and reduce operating costs

- **Application Upgrades (Status: underway)**
  Conversion of the APS computer network from a Novell operating system to Microsoft to support best business practices

- **Technology Equipment Renewal (Status: ongoing)**
  Computer and equipment replacement at APS schools to ensure that students and staff benefit from the most current technology

For more information on bond projects at each school, view the 2008 Facilities and Technology Needs Report at bond.aurorak12.org

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### Bond Projects by APS School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>PROJECT SUMMARY</th>
<th>COMPLETED</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRESCHOOL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meadowood CDC</td>
<td>New child development center for students ages 3 to 5</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ELEMENTARY/K-8</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Altura</td>
<td>Whole building remodel and roof repairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elkhart</td>
<td>Whole building remodel, water system replacement and roof repairs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Whole building remodel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laredo</td>
<td>Gymnasium addition</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyn Knoll</td>
<td>Water system replacement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Side Creek</td>
<td>HVAC/mechanical repairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Court</td>
<td>Two-classroom addition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vista PEAK Exploratory P-8</td>
<td>New P-8 school on APS P-20 Campus</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheeling</td>
<td>Gymnasium addition</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aurora Hills</td>
<td>New building to replace existing school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>HVAC/mechanical repairs</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machek</td>
<td>Kitchen/cafeteria addition</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HIGH</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aurora Central</td>
<td>Eight-classroom addition and mechanical repairs</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gateway</td>
<td>HVAC/mechanical and roof repairs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hinkley</td>
<td>Roof and swimming pool building repairs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rangeview</td>
<td>Kitchen remodel</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vista PEAK Preparatory</td>
<td>New high school on APS P-20 Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TECHNICAL COLLEGE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pickens Technical College</td>
<td>Roof repairs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICTWIDE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ALL APS-RUN SCHOOLS</td>
<td>Building renewal projects: every APS-run school receives funding for improvements identified by each school (examples include classroom remodels, playground equipment and new carpet).</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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For more information on bond projects at each school, view the 2008 Facilities and Technology Needs Report at bond.aurorak12.org.
The voter-approved mill levy provides funds for instruction-related programs and expenses. From full-day kindergarten to the Fifth Block of instruction, mill levy funds support the APS goal of increasing student achievement.

Funds benefit students by providing:

- **Free full-day kindergarten** at APS elementary and K-8 schools
- A permanent salary increase to recruit and retain high quality teaching and support staff
- **Instructional technology** to prepare APS students for 21st century learning
- **Truancy intervention** to ensure that APS students are in class every day
- **Fifth Block**—an additional 23 days of instruction for 10 percent of APS students
- **Pilot Schools**—innovative schools that offer unique learning opportunities
- **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support** to reward students for productive actions
- **International Baccalaureate programs** that provide students a global education
- **APS charter school technology** that will prepare students for 21st century learning

The APS District Accountability Advisory Committee, comprised of parents, staff and community members, reviews the mill levy budget annually at its public budget hearings in May.

To learn more about the APS mill levy, go to [aurorak12.org/about-aps/mill-levy-information](aurorak12.org/about-aps/mill-levy-information).

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**Did you know...**

- Full-day kindergarten provides children a strong early educational foundation – an advantage that is demonstrated to increase overall student achievement.
- Since truancy intervention efforts began in 2007, APS has reduced the number of habitually truant students by 8.5 percent in middle school and 9 percent in high school.
- Every summer, Fifth Block instruction offers about 4,000 students an additional five weeks of instruction. Students participating in the program have achieved significant gains in math, reading and writing.
- The International Baccalaureate program in APS is offered from kindergarten through high school at three schools. Mill levy funds will enable APS to offer IB programs at three additional schools.