

Tulsa's Vote for Students Comes with a Promise: Accountability, Opportunity and Results

By Dr. Ebony Johnson, Superintendent, Tulsa Public Schools and Moises Echeverria, President and CEO, Foundation for Tulsa Schools

Earlier this year, when more than 80% of Tulsa voters said yes to the 2026 Tulsa Public Schools bond, they sent a powerful message: Tulsa believes in investing in its students, supporting educators and creating opportunities that build a stronger future for our schools, workforce and city.

As leaders of Tulsa Public Schools and the Foundation for Tulsa Schools, we thank the voters who entrusted us with turning this investment into meaningful opportunities for more than 32,000 students. We are also grateful to the Tulsa Regional Chamber, business and community leaders, elected officials, parents and educators who used their voices to remind our community that strong public schools are essential to a strong city.

With this historic investment comes significant responsibility. Tulsa voters have entrusted us with \$609 million for our students and schools, and we are committed to earning that trust through accountability, transparency and results.

Tulsa Public Schools is taking concrete steps to strengthen how bond and capital improvement dollars are managed and monitored. The district has restructured the department responsible for managing these investments and added safeguards to strengthen financial reporting, oversight and transparency.

Our students and community deserve to know that every dollar is being used as promised. We take that responsibility seriously and are committed to protecting the resources Tulsa voters approved, ensuring those dollars reach the classrooms, programs, facilities and opportunities they are intended to support.

Delivering on that commitment will also require strong community partnership. For 25 years, Tulsa Public Schools and the Foundation for Tulsa Schools have worked together with distinct roles but a shared goal: ensuring Tulsa students have the opportunities and support they need to succeed.

The Foundation serves as a bridge to the broader community, connecting resources with the district's greatest priorities. That partnership was on full display during the 2026 bond campaign and will remain critical as we put this historic investment to work.

Over the next six years, the bond will support four major areas: learning environments, student opportunities, technology and transportation.

Some of the first improvements will focus on safe and effective learning environments, including HVAC upgrades to ensure classrooms are conducive to learning, enhanced safety measures such as new door locks and kitchen upgrades as Tulsa Public Schools brings child nutrition services back in-house.

A long-range planning committee is also evaluating district facilities to ensure resources align with students' needs. We understand some decisions ahead may be difficult, but they are necessary to build a stronger, more sustainable district.

But this bond goes beyond bricks and mortar by prioritizing programs that directly impact student outcomes. Investments in academics, college and career readiness, fine arts, athletics and other programs will help students explore their interests, build skills and prepare for success beyond graduation.

Whether students pursue college, technical training or the workforce, our job is to ensure they understand their options and are prepared for what comes next. That means expanding career academies and college and career advising, increasing opportunities to earn industry-recognized certifications and connecting students with internships and real-world work experiences.

The bond also addresses barriers that can prevent students from accessing opportunities, including transportation. Along with investments in buses and the district's transportation system, Tulsa Public Schools will bring back driver's education after many years without the program.

These are just some of the ways we are beginning to turn Tulsa's investment into meaningful opportunities for students, with much more work ahead.

The bond election demonstrated what is possible when educators, families, businesses and community leaders unite around a shared goal. Thank you, Tulsa, for believing in our

students, supporting our educators and investing in their futures. Together, we can create lasting impact, because strong schools build a stronger Tulsa.

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