

DeKalb High School area coordinators

We, the area coordinators of DeKalb High School, urge voters to support the DeKalb School District's construction referendum on Feb. 5.

Simply stated, we have run out of classroom space at the high school. There is no longer a south commons, a metals room, a child care room or sufficient study hall rooms. Some academic classes are being taught in rooms designed for performance-based activities, and students are currently being taught in areas that were storage rooms just a few years ago. Educational programs have already been cut, and we fear that without the passage of the referendum, students will begin to lag behind those in other districts because we lack facilities to house these important programs.

Access to technology is essential for students to be successful in the global society. The existing facility was built before computers became instrumental in the educational process. We currently have one computer lab for classroom use. We cannot convert a classroom for computer use because the classrooms are full every hour of the day. The new high school proposal includes added computer labs as well as opportunities for students to access computers throughout the school in small groups.

Finally, overcrowding in the building has caused a safety issue. This past fall, all 1,700 students were forced into the halls and lower levels of the building during a tornado warning. Students were three deep in the hallways, and some students were sitting in areas surrounded by glass. The infrastructure at DeKalb High School was not built to handle the number of students that we currently serve. We have run out of space and need your help to address this issue.

We urge you to visit the ReNew Our Schools Web site at <http://www.voteeyes428.org> for more information about the referendum and to view a video with the architectural renderings of the proposed high school building. Please be informed with the facts as you vote yes on Feb. 5.

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