

WMBD Channel 31 in Peoria

DUNLAP -- Here we "grow" again. That's a saying being tossed around Dunlap, as voters prepare to take action on a referendum to build a new school. Voters could agree to help fund a new elementary school in Dunlap. But one school there is already growing.

55 new students are packing Dunlap High School this year. Total enrollment has ballooned to well over a thousand. It's time to grow. A new wing of the high school officially opens. It's a five million dollar expansion, allowing upperclassmen a little extra elbow room - and lots of new technology.

Further expansions are planned across the district.

"We are at capacity at elementary schools just like we've been at the high school." Dunlap Superintendent Jay Marino is looking to taxpayers to help fund a fifth elementary school for the district. It's a \$21 million project; if approved on the November ballot, residents will foot the bill for a little more than half of that. "You'll start to see yard signs come out promoting the referendum, a notice that went to every home."

The K-5 school could open in the fall of 2012, accepting more than 450 students. For school leaders, it's not growing pains... They say this is further proof of their success as a district.

You'll have a chance to learn more about expansion plans at a meeting tomorrow night at Wilder-Waite Grade School. The meeting starts at 6:30PM.