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Madison County schools save more than \$2 million with bond refinancing

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Madison County School District refinanced \$29.8 million in general obligation bonds and limited tax notes, saving taxpayers and the county approximately \$2.45 million, according to Debbie Jones, the district's finance director.

"Our efforts to maintain good bond ratings have paid off," Jones said. "The timing was right, and the savings were significant. It's always a welcomed opportunity when you can demonstrate to your constituents how their money is being handled."

The bonds were rated Aa2 by Moody's Investors Service and AA- by Standard & Poor's, which is one of the highest ratings held by any school district in the state. "This strong credit rating allows the district to achieve very low interest rates on its bonds," said Lindsey Carter, vice president at Raymond James | Morgan Keegan.

"The district has benefitted from population growth but continues to maintain fiscally conservative policies."

As a result of the financing, interest on the general obligation bonds issued in 2005 went from 4.59 percent to 2.34 percent.

Originally issued in 2002, interest on the limited tax notes went from 4.91 percent to 1.21 percent.

Raymond James | Morgan Keegan served as the sole underwriter of the refinancing. The Young Law Group served as the district's bond counsel.

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