



**Today's Webinar Presentation:** 

## K-12/Charter School Bond Market Discussion & VersaBadge

February 20, 2025

#### Presented By:

#### **Kevin Strom**

Executive Managing Director – Group Head Ziegler Capital Markets 312-596-1593 kstrom@ziegler.com

#### **Scott Rolfs**

Managing Director – Group Head Ziegler K-12/Charter School Finance 414-978-6576 srolfs@ziegler.com

#### **Bryan Knowles**

Chief Executive Officer VersaBadge 580-237-7839 bknowles@versabadge.com

## Introduction



**Bryan Knowles Chief Executive Officer** 

- CEO of VersaBadge
- Industry focus ranging from healthcare IT, to action sports, environmental stewardship and children's literature
- Passionate entrepreneur, intent on building purposeful, creative solutions and exceptional teams to address complex challenges
- B.A. from Stanford University



**Scott Rolfs Managing Director** 

- Managing Director at Ziegler, leading the K-12 & Charter School facilities finance team
- Overseen financing exceeding \$4.0 billion for non-profit organizations nationwide
- B.S. in business and economics from Ripon College and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin



**Kevin Strom Executive Managing Director** 

- Executive Managing Director and Head off Ziegler's Capital Markets desk
- 36 years developing, growing and managing fixed income trading and sales teams in Chicago
- B.S. in Political Science from Wheaton College

### The Latest Headlines



# The Fed will cut rates fewer times and start them later than market hopes, according to CNBC Fed Survey

PUBLISHED TUE, JAN 30 2024-12:43 PM EST | UPDATED TUE, JAN 30 2024-3:49 PM EST

## Bloomberg

## Bankers Flood DC to Protect Tax-Free Debt for States and Cities

- Proposal to end tax break is unnerving public finance market
- Some are concerned the lobbying efforts will fall short



## **Bond Market Overview & Interest Rate Discussion**

## 10-Year Treasury: Last 12 Months



February 18, 2025: 4.54%

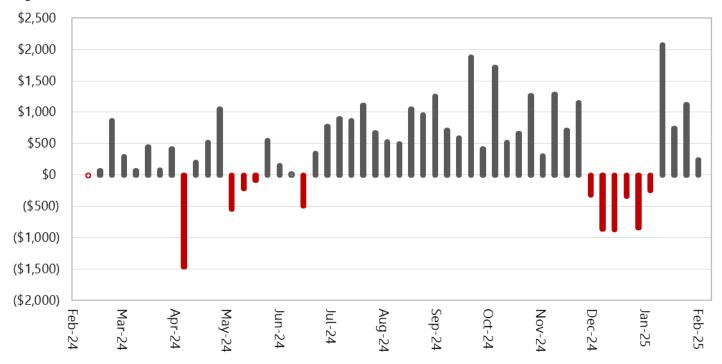
## 30-Year MMD: Last 12 Months



## **Future Fed Rate Cuts: Probabilities**



## **Municipal Bond Fund Flows**



- Muni funds have seen \$22.770 billion net inflows over the past 12 months.
- For the week ending February 14, 2025, municipal bond funds saw \$238.5 million of inflows.
- In 2025, there has been 4 weeks of inflows and 3 weeks of outflows. In 2024, there were 41 week of inflows and 11 weeks of outflows. In 2023, there were 11 weeks of inflows and 41 weeks of outflows.
- High-yield funds saw inflows of \$313 million. In 2025, high-yield funds have seen 7 weeks of inflows and 0 weeks of outflows. In 2024, there were 47 weeks of inflows and 5 weeks of outflows.
- From a borrower's perspective, fund inflows mean that bond funds have more cash that they need to put to work. This may result in potential investors being more aggressive in terms of pricing and/or covenants.

### **Recent Transactions**





\$28,720,000 **Illinois Finance Authority** Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2025 (Noble Network of Charter Schools) **Closed January 2025** 





\$67,205,000 **Capital Trust Authority Educational Facilities Lease Revenue and** Refunding Bonds, Series 2024 (Plato Academy Schools Project) **Closed December 2024** 

## Tax Reform — Private Activity Bonds (PABs)

- Nonprofit organizations such at charter schools, private K12, colleges and universities and hospitals have been able to issue tax-exempt bonds to fund facility expansion.
- These are known as private activity bonds or PABs.
- Many elements of the current tax code expire at the end of this year,
  the Trump Administration and Congress are working on a revision.
- As in 2017, bill drafters may look to eliminate certain exemptions,
  PABs are one.
- We need all borrowers to contact their Congressional representatives.



## **School Safety Solution**

A flexible, affordable location-aware technology platform

## **Solution in Focus**

The school safety conversation is overwhelmingly focused on preparing for active shooter events and other instances of mass violence, **but 99.99% of violent incidents in schools have nothing to with that**. It is the accumulation of pervasive, day-to-day encounters with violence that erode the morale of school staff and fail to support an appropriate learning environment for students.

As job vacancy rates continue to rise, **schools must invest in creating a safe and supportive workplace** to attract and retain teachers and other staff.

The **VersaBadge School Safety Solution** provides a simple, easy to deploy RTLS system that is purpose-built to facilitate early intervention and de-escalation of both every-day altercations and mass events in schools.



## VersaBadge Infrastructure

**Flexible Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE)** platform that utilizes a network of beacons and receivers.

**Beacons (or badges)** are assigned to staff members or given to visitors, and can be easily worn or affixed. Each beacon broadcasts a unique BLE signal.

**Receivers** are installed throughout key areas of the school and scan for badge signals. Each receiver is connected to our cloud-based software by either PoE (Power over Ethernet) or WiFi.

Our **proprietary algorithm** processes data from the receivers to determine location. Location information is presented via a dashboard or map in real-time and through retrospective reporting.

#### **Staff/Visitor Badge**



#### **Receivers**



#### **Facility Map**



## **Staff Duress Alerting Functionality**

- Staff members wear a badge with a small physical button. Pressing the button twice triggers a series of discreet, preconfigured alerts to designated alert recipients via the VersaBadge mobile alert app, desktop dashboard and SMS.
- Alerts include the name of the staff member and their specific location, with subsequent alerts if their badge location changes.
- Responders easily initiate response notifications to indicate that help is on the way and log notes after the alert has been addressed. Historical alerts and alert details are stored, with insightful reporting capabilities.



## Safety Beyond Staff Duress



#### **Mass Notifications**

Administrators and designated users can send alert notifications to specific groups or all staff in case of emergency (e.g. "Active Shooter").



#### **Visitor Management**

Check in school visitors and monitor their location throughout the property. Provide alerts when visitors exceed expected time on campus.



## **Deployment & Support**

#### Simple, Straightforward Installation

Rapid installation with coordination from VersaBadge specialists and IT or Facilities stakeholders

#### **Network and Power Options**

- WiFi with AC Power: Provides power via standard AC outlet and network connectivity via WiFi
- Power Over Ethernet (POE): Provides power & network connectivity via Ethernet cable

#### System-as-a-Service (SaaS) Package

Priced as a flat, annual (or monthly) fee with no hidden costs, including:

- Hardware replacements
- Batteries (monitored and replaced proactively by VersaBadge)
- Deployment support and training
- Ongoing system support and maintenance
- Hardware and firmware upgrades to the latest technology





## **School Safety Solution**



www.versabadge.com



info@versabadge.com



## **Questions & Answers**

#### **Kevin Strom**

Executive Managing Director – Group Head Ziegler Capital Markets 312-596-1593 kstrom@ziegler.com

#### **Scott Rolfs**

Managing Director – Group Head Ziegler K-12/Charter School Finance 414-978-6576 srolfs@ziegler.com

#### **Bryan Knowles**

Chief Executive Officer VersaBadge 580-237-7839 bknowles@versabadge.com

## Disclaimer

- Ziegler is a privately-held investment bank, capital markets and proprietary investments firm
- A registered broker dealer with SIPC & FINRA
- Ziegler provides its clients with capital raising, strategic advisory services, equity & fixed-income trading and research
- Founded in 1902, Ziegler specializes in the healthcare, senior living and educational sectors as well as general municipal finance

This presentation is designed to provide information regarding the subject matter covered and is intended for informational purposes only with the understanding that the material contained herein does not constitute legal, accounting, tax, or other professional advice. Although information which may be contained in this presentation has been obtained from sources which we believe to be reliable, we do not guarantee that it is accurate or complete and any such information may be subject to change at any time.

This presentation may contain forward-looking statements, which may or may not come to fruition depending on certain circumstances. In addition, please be advised that past financial results do not predict future financial performance. Portions of this presentation may be presented by non-Ziegler individuals whose opinions and information may differ from those of Ziegler, its employees or its representatives.