

SURVEY INSIDE



**FULLERTON
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**



School Facilities **UPDATE**

PARENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS: Great schools protect property values!

FULLERTON
S C H O O L
D I S T R I C T



January 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians and Neighbors:

As Superintendent of Fullerton School District (FSD), I am proud of the quality teaching and learning that our neighborhood schools have been able to provide to our community. Although the district has a solid academic track record, the quality and condition of school facilities has not kept pace.

Our challenge is this: Fullerton Schools are aging. The state of our classrooms, facilities, and technology is impacting teaching and learning. Our public schools are in constant use, serving nearly 11,500 students each day at over 20 school sites. Most of our schools were built more than 60 years ago, and all are in need of essential repairs and continuing upgrades to keep pace with advancing technology.

Safe, modern school facilities are essential to protecting the outstanding quality of our 15 elementary schools, two TK-8 campuses, and three Junior High Schools.

Our school district makes every effort to use resources wisely. But, with limited help from the State, the burden is growing to adequately repair and upgrade our aging school facilities and classroom technology. We need to work together to protect the local quality of education.

This school year we have made school facilities assessment and planning a top priority. We're working hard to conduct an open, transparent, consensus-building process to ensure quality school facilities for the future.

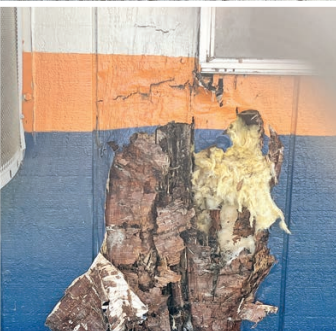
I want to hear from you as we move through this process. Simply complete and return the attached response card, scan the QR code, or visit our website www.fullertonsd.org to take our survey. Let us know what you think.

Thank you. Your opinions are important to us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Pletka". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Bob Pletka
Superintendent



Our School Facilities Goals:

To maintain the quality of education in Fullerton public schools and ensure that all students have access to safe, modern school facilities.

- ▶ **MAINTAIN** the outstanding quality of education in Fullerton (quality school facilities contribute to academic achievement).
- ▶ **REPAIR**, rehabilitate, and modernize aging TK-8 neighborhood schools.
- ▶ **UPGRADE** Fullerton schools to keep pace with 21st century teaching and learning.
- ▶ **IMPROVE** student safety and security.
- ▶ **REPLACE** end of life/expiring portable classrooms that are expensive to repair and maintain with modern classrooms that meet today's academic standards.

Learn More:

www.fullertonsd.org

Call us at: (714) 447-7405

or email: robert_coglan@myfsd.org

SURVEY

Your opinion is important to us.

Take this survey online.
Scan the QR code, or go to:

www.fullertonsd.org

Please rank these school facilities priorities
in order of their importance to you
(#1 = most important, #6 = least important).



▶ **PROVIDING** modern labs, technical facilities, and equipment so students are prepared for college, in-demand careers in fields like health sciences, engineering, robotics, and technology fields.

▶ **REPAIRING** older classrooms and school facilities including deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems. Removing hazardous materials from older school sites, where encountered.

▶ **UPGRADING** older schools so they meet current health and building safety codes, provide proper access for students with disabilities, and meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools.

▶ **IMPROVING** student safety and campus security including fencing, intruder protection systems, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and sprinkler systems.

▶ **CONFIRMING** that all students have equal access to outdoor learning, athletics, and physical education facilities.

▶ **ENSURING** that children's playground equipment and play areas meet current health and safety standards.

▶ **OTHER** _____

Comments/questions:

Contact information is optional:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

PLACE
1st CLASS
STAMP
HERE

Fullerton School District
1401 W Valencia Dr.
Fullerton, CA 92833

Attn: Office of the Superintendent



www.fullertonsd.org

Provided as a public service for your information only, from Fullerton School District.

What is this assessment project all about?

As part of our commitment to maintaining the quality of education in neighborhood schools, Fullerton School District has conducted a full assessment of all of our local school facilities needs—including TK-8 classroom structures, equipment, educational technology, and related school facilities at every school site in the school district. This assessment is part of a larger process to ensure our schools are structured and equipped to provide the best education possible to the students, families, and community we serve.

What are the School District's most critical needs?

- ▶ **PROVIDING** modern labs, technical facilities, and equipment so students are prepared for college, in-demand careers in fields like health sciences, engineering, robotics, and technology fields.
- ▶ **REPAIRING** older classrooms and school facilities including deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems. Removing hazardous materials from older school sites, where encountered.
- ▶ **UPGRADING** older schools so they meet current health and building safety codes, provide proper access for students with disabilities, and meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools.
- ▶ **IMPROVING** student safety and campus security including fencing, intruder protection systems, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and sprinkler systems.
- ▶ **ENSURING** that all students have equal access to outdoor learning, athletics, and physical education facilities. Ensure that children's playground equipment and play areas meet current health and safety standards.

Why now?

Fullerton TK-8 schools have grown old and outdated. The state of our classrooms, technology, and facilities is impacting teaching and learning. Our 15 elementary schools, two TK-8 campuses, and three Junior High Schools are in constant use, most are at least 60 years old; all need continuing upgrades to keep pace with advancing technology; and many of our 120 portables are past or nearing the end of their lifespan. Part of our responsibility to the community we serve is to maintain quality school facilities.

How will this effort improve instruction?

Safe, modern school facilities are essential to maintaining the quality of education in our local schools. ALL children deserve to learn in quality classrooms and school facilities. There's a direct relationship between quality school facilities and student achievement. Studies show that children and teachers perform best in safe, modern classrooms and schools with up-to-date technology.

Don't you have a School Facilities Maintenance Budget?

Yes. District facilities staff members work hard to maintain our neighborhood schools and keep them in good working condition with limited resources. However, the reality is that the types of repairs and renovations that our neighborhood schools currently need go beyond the scope and means of regular school maintenance budgets.

What about other funding?

Our school district makes every effort to use resources wisely. But with limited help from the State, the burden is growing to adequately repair and upgrade our school facilities and classroom technology. More than \$750 million worth of needs have been identified to repair and modernize our 20 schools serving approximately 11,500 students each day. We need to work together to protect the local quality of education. To that end, Fullerton School

District is exploring all options—including State matching funds and private grants. As part of this process we are also exploring the feasibility of seeking community support for a local school bond. School bonds are the most common way California communities fund the school upgrades we need.

Will this bond help replace the end of life/expiring portables still currently in use at our schools?

Yes. Many of the portables that are currently in use at over 20 school sites are either past or nearing the end of their lifespan. Portables are only designed to last a certain amount of time to help bridge the gap between current need and the construction of permanent, long-term classrooms and other school facilities. Replacing portables now is not only necessary, but ensures our students are learning in quality, safe classrooms.

My children are grown and gone. Why should I pay attention to this process?

Good schools are the foundation of any healthy, thriving community. Good schools make our neighborhoods desirable places to live and support our property values.

Who makes the final decision on a local school bond?

The locally elected Fullerton School District Board of Trustees is the legal entity that can place a bond on the ballot. Ultimately, Fullerton REGISTERED VOTERS will have the final say when they vote for or against the measure on the ballot.

Where can I go for more information?

Visit www.fullertonsd.org or contact Assistant Superintendent Robert R. Coghlan, Ph.D. via phone at: (714) 447-7412 or via email at: robert_coghlan@myfsd.org