

# FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT



April 2024

## Dear Parents & Neighbors,

For generations, Fullerton School District (founded in 1888) has provided the highest quality education for our children and kept our community strong.

We need to invest in our community schools so they remain safe and up-to-date with the best educational school facilities needed to support 21st-century learning. We work hard every day to maintain the outstanding quality of education provided in Fullerton's 20 schools. Unfortunately, our facilities do not match the exceptional teaching and learning happening in our local elementary and middle schools. A school bond will allow us to meet the most critical needs of our facilities.

Over the past few months, Fullerton School District has been gathering community input on our public school facility improvement plan, including 39,052 mailers sent to solicit community input and share information. Your input has helped us as we continue to finalize a prudent, responsible, community-responsive plan. On June 18, 2024, I will be sharing with the Board of Trustees our recommended proposal. If the Board chooses to move forward with putting a school bond measure before voters on the November 2024 ballot, that action item will take place at our July 30th Board Meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this important process in Fullerton School District. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional comments or questions. Your voice is important to us.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Bob Pletka, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

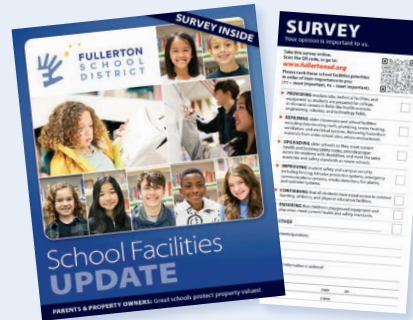
## Fullerton School District

1401 W. Valencia Drive

Fullerton, CA 92833

[www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org)

# UPDATE: School Facilities Improvement Plan



We recently asked for your input regarding school facilities needs.

Here's what we heard...

## SURVEY RESULTS

Here are the top 6 critical facilities needs rankings:

- 1 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.
- 2 UPGRADING** older schools so they meet current health codes, building safety codes, provide proper access for students with disabilities, and meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools.
- 3 IMPROVING** student safety and campus security including fencing, intruder protection systems, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and sprinkler systems.
- 4 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.
- 5 ENSURING** that children's playground equipment and play areas meet current health and safety standards.
- 6 CONFIRMING** that all students have equal access to outdoor learning, athletics, and physical education facilities.

# Our 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.

# Q&A: Facilities Improvement Process at Fullerton School District

FULLERTON  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT



## What is this process 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.

## 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.

## 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 classrooms and offers the potential for long-term savings via a reduction in the cost required to keep the classrooms maintained.

## Are Fullerton SD schools really that old?

Most of our schools were built more than 60 years ago and need to be repaired and

upgraded. It's time to make essential repairs and improvements so our schools can serve our community well for the decades to come.

## What about the High School? Aren't they going out for a bond? Why do we need two bonds?

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District and Fullerton School District are two distinct districts that have no overlap in terms of funding. At Fullerton School District (FSD), our 15 elementary schools, two TK-8 campuses, and three junior high schools have a pressing need to improve school safety and security, and upgrade classrooms, science labs, and school facilities that support student achievement in science, math, reading, technology, and the arts. Unfortunately, state funding is limited in general, and new funds provided by the State are designated for instructional programs, NOT capital improvements. Moreover, in order to access state funding, school districts MUST generate local matching funds by passing a local school bond measure. Passing a local bond is the ONLY way to qualify for additional state funding if and when it becomes available. There are no other sources of funding for major facility upgrades. It's been 22 years since FSD has passed a school facilities bond.

## How much would the proposed bond cost?

No decisions have been made yet. A \$262 million bond translates to about \$0.03 per year for every \$100 of assessed valuation. The assessed valuation refers to taxable value, not the market value of your home. The taxable value of your home or business will depend on when you purchased it. If the bond is approved, the typical homeowner in our school district would pay about \$140 a year, or \$12 a month. You can visit [octreasurer.com](http://octreasurer.com) to look up your property's assessed value.

## How can we be assured that the bond money would be spent properly?

Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED. Every penny from this measure would go to benefit FSD schools, be controlled locally, and would not be allowed to be taken away by the state. This measure requires independent citizens' oversight and reports to the community to ensure the funds are spent as promised. None of the money from this measure can be used to increase salaries, benefits, or pensions for administrators, teachers, or any other school employees.

## Have there been other FSD school bonds? If so, when was the last bond?

FSD makes every effort to use taxpayer dollars in a prudent, responsible manner. Our last bond measure, Measure CC, was passed by local voters in 2002, more than 20 years ago. Measure CC was the first step in a multi-year effort to upgrade aging, deteriorated Fullerton schools, but additional funding is long overdue. Twenty-two years removed from Measure CC, Fullerton has MORE THAN \$750 MILLION in unmet facility needs.

## Won't we be paying for two bonds for Fullerton SD at the same time?

No. If approved, any new bond will not come into effect until any previous FSD bonds are completely paid off. The result is that work will be able to begin immediately from this new bond, residents and taxpayers WILL NOT be paying for two FSD bonds simultaneously.

## Where can I find more information?

Please visit: [www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org) or contact Assistant Superintendent Robert R. Coghlan, Ph.D. by email: [robert\\_coghlan@myfsd.org](mailto:robert_coghlan@myfsd.org) or by phone: (714) 447-7412.

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