

Measure G: School Modernization, Career Technology and Safety Measure

Why do we need Measure G?

We are proud of all that we were able to accomplish in the past, but the fact remains that our school facilities, particularly our 50-year-old high school, need updates to meet 21st-century standards in a safe, modern learning environment.

Some of the urgent needs at our schools are:

- Infrastructure at Los Al High School is 50 years old. The electrical and data infrastructure is in desperate need of modernization to meet today's educational standards and ensure that our students are prepared for success in the 21st-century workforce.
- With the high demand for science classes, there are not enough science labs.
- Supply of computer science and engineering classrooms does not meet demand.
- Aging portables at Los Al High School must be replaced, including two which are completely uninhabitable.
- Limited space for our award-winning music and arts program classes means that many students do not have adequate time to practice and perform.
- Some classrooms across the District still do not have heating or air conditioning.
- Bathroom access is limited at many sites.
- Plumbing and roof repairs are needed at the high school .
- Safety and campus security improvements are needed.

Priority Measure G Projects

1. The high school is 50 years old, and the electrical and data infrastructure needs to be replaced. LAHS is the only school that has not been fully modernized (approx. 20 M).
2. We need a new building with updated classrooms for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The UC System will be voting on a requirement of three years of science effective with the class of 2022 (approximately 35 M).
3. With a new building, we could remove up to 31 old portables that are nearing the end of their suggested life.
4. We need to modernize the existing classrooms at LAHS, after the infrastructure is done, the multi-story building is built, and the portables are removed (approx. 20 M).
5. Security Fencing, Security Cameras, Alert Towers, etc. need to be installed at every site to enhance safety (approximately 8 M).

Didn't Measure K in 2008 address these needs in our schools?

Though funds from Measure K have helped complete numerous projects that are serving our students well, it was only meant to address a portion of the capital improvement needs identified through our Facilities Master Planning process.

All previous bond funds have either been expended or are committed to projects currently being completed. Although much has been accomplished, critical repairs and upgrades are still needed to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for our students. During our comprehensive Facilities Master Planning process to assess the District's needs and develop a plan to improve our schools, it became clear that locally controlled funding from a bond measure is the best option to address these critical needs.

Approximately 350 M worth of needs were identified in the needs assessment and Facilities Master Plan for Measure K – over 10 years ago. Measure K was 126 M so the most urgent needs were completed. The Facilities Master Plan is the ideal. We have to scale down the “dream list” to do the most urgent needs as determined by our residents and staff. (We gave multiple surveys to ascertain the priorities of our community.)

Important Information

- If we pass a bond, we would be eligible for state matching funds. Measure K was 126 M, and we received approximately 30 M in state matching funds. State matching funds do not have to be paid back. The only way we would be eligible for future state matching funds is if we pass a bond. State matching funds allow us to do more, hence the reason for more projects on the list than the original bond can possibly cover. And, we never know how much State matching funds we'll get.
- The District has budgeted money for facilities and maintenance and long-term facility needs to alleviate the need for a future bond, as stated in the bond resolution.
- Over 90% of our families moved here for the schools according to a recent survey given to all families.
- The bond is for 97 Million and will cost approximately \$30 per \$100,000 assessed value. The median assessed value in Los Alamitos Unified is \$458,202. This amount was determined based on two community surveys and what people were willing to pay for the most urgent priorities.
- We only have one high school. It is where every student eventually goes and from which all students graduate. We need to provide them the very best possible education so they are all prepared to attain their goals for the future. Over 90% of our students go on to post-secondary education; updated STEM classrooms are essential. In addition, we have over 17 Career Technical Education (CTE) and ROP courses at LAHS, and these classrooms need to be modernized as well to accommodate the increased levels of technical requirements. Everyone now uses personal computers, smart phones, and/or other technological devices.
- We are not about the buildings, but they matter. When students and families are connected to school through students' involvement in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, they are happier, more successful, learn to value diversity, work better with others, and are more prepared to contribute to society.

Fiscal Accountability

In drafting Measure G for voter consideration, the District worked to ensure all Orange County Taxpayer Association's criteria for fiscally responsible school bond were met. All funds stay local, can only be used for facilities, and cannot be used for employee salaries. A Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee ensures the money is spent as stated on the bond and on the voter approved project list.