

Western Placer Unified School District

2022 School Facilities & Technology Improvement Project

Measure G FACT SHEET

Background: Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD) schools serve an essential community need. As the local provider of Transitional Kindergarten through 12th Grade (TK-12) public education, we believe all students deserve to learn in quality classrooms and school facilities. While we have been able to build, repair, and upgrade SOME of our public schools to address critical needs and overcrowding, the rest of our local schools continue to age, and the state of their classrooms, facilities, and technology is adversely impacting teaching and learning. Additionally, more young families with school-age children are moving into our school district each year. The District's enrollment has almost doubled since the early 2000s. As a result, many WPUSD schools are operating at near maximum capacity, utilizing all available classrooms and shared spaces. New classrooms are needed to prevent classroom overcrowding and accommodate projected enrollment. Measure G provides a plan to continue addressing the most critical Western Placer Unified School District facilities needs. No other funding currently exists to properly upgrade these facilities.

Measure G DEFINED: Measure G is a school bond measure that the WPUSD Board of Trustees has voted to place on the November 8, 2022 ballot seeking voter authorization for Western Placer Unified School District funding to make needed facilities repairs, technology upgrades, and improvements to school sites. Measure G requires 55% support to pass. A "YES vote" approves funding for the District's plan; a "NO vote" rejects the plan.

Measure G Ballot Question: "To renovate/modernize Carlin Coppin and Creekside Oaks Elementary Schools, Lincoln and Phoenix High Schools; complete Twelve Bridges High School; remove/replace asbestos, lead pipes, roofs, electrical systems; supporting achievement in math, science, engineering, reading, arts and technology; improve safety/security/disabled access; prevent overcrowding; shall Western Placer Unified School District issue \$185,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, annually levying approximately \$54 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, generating approximately \$9,400,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, requiring audits/citizens oversight?"

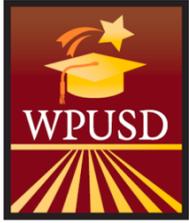
Measure G Summary – Measure G will:

- **RENOVATE & MODERNIZE** Carlin C. Coppin Elementary, Creekside Oaks Elementary, Lincoln High School, Phoenix High School, and complete Twelve Bridges High School to prevent overcrowding, and to make sure that our school facilities and school grounds are safe, secure, and modern.
- **FIX** deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, and electrical systems, where needed.
- **REMOVE** hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes.
- **UPGRADE** older schools to improve fire safety, school security, building safety, and access for students with disabilities.
- **IMPROVE** heating, ventilation, insulation, doors, and windows to increase energy efficiency and save money.
- **UPGRADE** classrooms, labs, and educational technology to support high quality instruction in math, science, engineering, technology, and the arts.
- **MODERNIZE** outdated wiring for computer technology and internet access.
- **IMPROVE** physical education areas, play equipment, kitchens, and multi-use facilities for student health, safety, and access for individuals with disabilities.
- **REPLACE** aging portable classrooms that are expensive to repair and maintain with modern, permanent classrooms.

Taxpayer Safeguards:

- By law, all funds from Measure G must stay local, dedicated to WPUSD schools only.
- The State cannot take Measure G funding away.
- Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, independent annual audits, and regular public reports ensure proper spending of funds.
- Measure G cannot be used to increase salaries, benefits, or pensions for administrators, teachers, or any other school employees.

For more information: Please visit our website at: www.wpusd.k12.ca.us or contact Michael Adell, Director of Facilities via email: madell@wpusd.org; or via phone: (916) 645-5100.



Western Placer Unified School District *2022 School Facilities & Technology Improvement Project*

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Measure G?

Measure G is a school bond measure on the November 8, 2022 ballot seeking voter authorization for Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD) funding to make needed facilities repairs, technology upgrades, and improvements to school sites. Measure G requires 55% support to pass. A “YES vote” approves funding for the District’s plan; a “NO vote” rejects the plan. All Western Placer Unified School District voters registered by October 24, 2022 will be eligible to vote on Measure G.

Why has the Western Placer Unified School District placed Measure G on the ballot?

Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD) schools serve an essential community need. As the local provider of Transitional Kindergarten through 12th Grade (TK-12) public education, we believe all students deserve to learn in quality classrooms and school facilities. While we have been able to build, repair, and upgrade SOME of our public schools to address critical needs and overcrowding, the rest of our local schools continue to age, and the state of their classrooms, facilities, and technology is adversely impacting teaching and learning.

Additionally, more young families with school-age children are moving into our school district each year. The District’s enrollment has almost doubled since the early 2000s. As a result, many WPUSD schools are operating at near maximum capacity, utilizing all available classrooms and shared spaces. New classrooms are needed to prevent classroom overcrowding and accommodate projected enrollment. Measure G provides a plan to continue addressing the most critical Western Placer Unified School District facilities needs. No other funding currently exists to properly upgrade these facilities.

Does the District have a Facilities Master Plan?

Yes. Facilities assessment and planning continues to be a top priority in planning for student success. **Our Long-Range Facilities Master Plan (FMP)** is continually updated to identify and confirm the needs at every school site. Every WPUSD school has facility improvement needs that require attention. Our goal is to address individual school needs while also striving to achieve equity among all school sites so ALL local public schools provide the same quality education.

What is the actual question that voters will be asked to decide in November?

“To renovate/ modernize Coppin and Creekside Oaks Elementary Schools, Lincoln and Phoenix High Schools; complete Twelve Bridges High School; remove/ replace asbestos, lead pipes, roofs, electrical systems; supporting achievement in math, science, engineering, reading, arts and technology; improve safety/ security/ disabled access; prevent overcrowding; shall Western Placer Unified School District issue \$185,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, annually levying approximately \$54 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, generating approximately \$9,400,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, requiring audits /citizens oversight?”

What about ongoing school maintenance? Doesn’t the District have a maintenance budget?

District staff work hard to maintain our public elementary, middle, and high school facilities, and keep them in good working condition with limited resources. However, the reality is that the types of repairs and renovations that our current needs assessment has identified go beyond the scope and means of regular school maintenance budgets.

What would funds raised by Measure G go towards?

- **RENOVATE & MODERNIZE** Carlin C. Coppin Elementary, Creekside Oaks Elementary, Lincoln High School, Phoenix High School, and complete Twelve Bridges High School to prevent overcrowding, and to make sure that our school facilities and school grounds are safe, secure, and modern.
- **FIX** deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, and electrical systems, where needed.
- **REMOVE** hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes.
- **UPGRADE** older schools to improve fire safety, school security, building safety, and access for students with disabilities.
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- **REPLACE** aging portable classrooms that are expensive to repair and maintain with modern, permanent classrooms.

What is a Proposition 39 school bond measure and what can it pay for?

A Proposition 39 school bond measure can ONLY be used to fund school facility and technology improvements. A Proposition 39 school bond requires 55% to pass. Proposition 39 school bonds prohibit the use of the funds for operations, administrator salaries or pensions. It also requires independent financial and performance audits on the use of bond proceeds. No revenue generated by a local bond can be taken away by the State. All revenue stays local to benefit our local schools and students.

Will this effort improve instruction?

Yes. Safe, modern, school facilities are essential to maintaining the quality of education in our local TK-12 schools. 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.

How are WPUSD school facilities improvements funded?

Our school district makes every effort to use resources wisely. With limited help from the State and our school facility and technology needs growing every day, we need to work together as a community to protect our local quality of education. Our current list of facility needs, including repairs and upgrades to outdated security, plumbing, HVAC, and electrical systems, classroom upgrades, and installing new technology, far exceeds our available allotment for school facilities maintenance. WPUSD has been exploring all available solutions to meet these needs—including State matching funds, private grants, and a local school bond. School bonds are the established and most common way to fund the upgrades our schools need.

What about the Lottery funding? Wasn't it supposed to fix our schools?

Unfortunately, restricted Lottery funds can only be used for classroom instruction, not technology or facility upgrades. Moreover, the money our school district receives from the Lottery each year comprises less than 1% of our annual General Fund Budget. Lottery funds alone cannot fund the extensive upgrades that our schools need.

Doesn't the STATE provide funding for facility upgrades?

Very little. In the past, State funding has been available to support local school upgrades, but especially now, we cannot count on this uncertain source of funding. 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.

What about other funding?

Our school district makes every effort to use resources wisely. With limited help from the State and our school facility and technology needs growing every day, we need to work together as a community to protect our local quality of education. WPUSD has been using all available solutions to meet these needs – including State matching funds, private grants, and a local school bond. School bonds are the established and most common way to fund the upgrades our schools need.

I don't have children or they are grown and gone. Why does this matter to me?

Good schools are the foundation of any healthy, thriving community. Good schools make our neighborhoods desirable places to live and support our property values. Home resale values will benefit as our neighborhood schools are improved. The longer we wait to complete needed upgrades, the more expensive they will become.

Which schools would the bond benefit?

All 15 schools – 15 campuses – 8 Elementary Schools (TK-5), 2 Middle School (6-8), 2 Comprehensive High Schools (9-12), 1 Continuation High School (10-12), 1 Independent Study School (K-12) and 1 Farm Campus – will benefit from any revenue raised from the potential bond measure.

If voters approve the bond, when will the work begin?

If the District moved forward with a bond measure and it is approved, the District will immediately focus on the most critical facilities needs. A schedule for funding projects will be developed so they can be completed on time and within budget.

How much would the bond cost?

A \$185 million bond translates to about \$54 per year for every \$100,000 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 will pay about \$235 a year, or \$19.50 a month.

Can't we just repair the portable classrooms?

There are 135 portable classrooms at our schools that are at least 20 years old and require major repairs to roofs, foundations, and heating/ventilation units. It's expensive to keep repairing these units. We need this bond to replace our aging portables with modern, permanent classrooms.

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

Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED. All funds raised would stay local to support Western Placer USD school facility and technology improvements. These funds cannot be taken by the State or spent on administrators' salaries. An Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee is required to ensure funds are spent properly. Measure G also requires independent annual audits on use of bond proceeds to ensure accountability to the public.

What do facility repairs have to do with retaining or attracting our quality teachers?

By upgrading classrooms and learning technology, the best teachers will want to teach at our local public schools because classrooms will be up-to-date and have greater access to new technology to support 21st century instructional needs.

Is preventing overcrowding really that important?

Yes. Student enrollment at WPUSD is increasing. **More young families with school-age children are moving into our school district each year. The District's enrollment has almost doubled since the early 2000s.** As a result, many WPUSD schools are operating at near maximum capacity, utilizing all available classrooms and shared spaces, resulting in cafeterias, gyms, and playgrounds being overcrowded. New classrooms are needed to prevent classroom overcrowding and accommodate projected enrollment. Using conservative estimates for new development over the next four years, the District's enrollment is projected to increase by almost **900 students by 2026-27**. Based on areas likely to develop over the next 10-20 years, the City is estimating approximately 17,280 new housing units. Approximately **9,500** new students are expected from the 17,280 units planned over the next 10-20 years and the District will need to build new schools to accommodate these students.

What about Measures A & N? Weren't they supposed to fix our schools?

EVEN WITH MEASURE A & N FUNDING, OUR PUBLIC TK-12 SCHOOL FACILITIES STILL NEED ATTENTION. Passage of Measure A in 2014 and Measure N in 2016 were the first steps in a comprehensive effort to upgrade aging and overcrowded Western Placer elementary, middle, and high school facilities. Thanks to the generosity of our community, local children are now benefiting from improved school facilities to help prepare them for success in high school, college, careers, and in life. Measures A & N were bond measures focused on four key projects that were completed successfully and under budget. However, even with Measure A & N school improvement projects completed, we still have **NEARLY \$700 MILLION** in unmet facility needs, including: aging roofing, plumbing, and electrical systems, classroom upgrades for improved teaching and learning in science, math, technology, engineering, and arts. Older schools need upgrades to meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools to support academic achievement for the District's students.

Will businesses share in the cost of Measure G?

Yes, both commercial and residential property owners will be subject to the assessment.

Who makes the final decision on a local school bond?

The locally elected Western Placer Unified School District Board of Education is the legal entity that has placed this bond on the ballot. Ultimately, Western Placer Unified School District REGISTERED VOTERS will have the final say when they vote for or against the measure on the ballot.

Where can I find more information?

To learn more, please visit our website at: www.wpusd.org or contact Michael Adell, Director of Facilities via email: madell@wpusd.org or via phone: (916) 645-5100.