

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Safe and Modern Classrooms for ALL Hayward Students**

**Q. Who does Hayward Unified School District serve?**

**A.** Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) strives to provide a quality education for more than 19,000 students from preschool through high school and adult education that prepares them for life beyond the classroom. HUSD includes 18 elementary schools, five middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, two alternative high schools, an adult education center and a child care center for preschoolers that serve students in the City of Hayward and portions of unincorporated Alameda County.

**Q. What is the condition of HUSD classrooms and school facilities?**

**A.** Most of Hayward's schools were built in the 1950s and 1960s during a period of rapid population growth. In fact, 19 of HUSD's 30 school sites are over 60 years old and were built for a different era of education when the demands of a 21st Century education in science, math, engineering and technology could not have been imagined. Many school facilities have deteriorating sewer, plumbing, heating and ventilation systems. Aging portable classrooms are beyond their useful life, are deteriorating and no longer meet safety and instructional standards.

**Q. Has HUSD carefully assessed the needs at each school and developed a plan for repairs and upgrades?**

**A.** Starting in 2006, HUSD partnered with architects and school facility construction experts to conduct a thorough assessment of every classroom, lab and school facility in the District to evaluate conditions and identify needed upgrades. This work resulted in HUSD's comprehensive Facility Master Plan, which has been updated periodically over the years, most recently in 2023.

**Q. Haven't we already passed bond measures to upgrade local schools?**

**A.** Because the State of California does not provide dedicated funding for facility improvements, HUSD has had to rely upon voter-approved local school facilities improvement bond measures to fund the upgrade and repair of local schools. Thanks to the generous support of Hayward voters, many important upgrades have been completed, including replacement of several of Hayward's oldest schools with new school facilities, construction of modern science, technology, engineering and math classrooms and labs at some campuses, upgrades to art, music and athletics facilities and installation of solar panels to supply HUSD's electrical needs with green energy.

**Q. Have past bond measures helped access state matching funds?**

**A.** Passage of the past local bond measures has provided the local matching funds needed to access over \$40 million in state matching funds to improve Hayward schools that would have otherwise been allocated to schools in other communities. HUSD is

now eligible for an additional \$79 million in State matching funds due to projects made possible by HUSD's last bond measure.

**Q. Have funds from past bond measures been used as promised?**

**A.** Past school facility improvement bond measures approved by local voters required strict fiscal accountability protections, including an independent citizens' oversight committee comprised of Hayward community members and mandatory annual audits. Since 2008, the reports of HUSD's Citizens' Oversight Committee and independent audits have consistently confirmed that funds have only been spent on voter approved projects only and the work has been completed on time and on budget. Reports of the Citizens' Oversight Committee can be reviewed here [\[link to COC reports\]](#).

**Q. Have all schools been upgraded? Are additional facility improvements needed?**

**A.** While some HUSD schools have been upgraded, others have not. To ensure all students attend class in safe and up-to-date classrooms, HUSD is now finalizing plans for the next phase of improvements to bring all schools to current health, safety and educational standards.

**Q. How does HUSD plan to fund the next phase of school improvements and upgrades?**

**A.** With no state funding available for school facility improvements, HUSD must look to local funding sources to continue the upgrade and repair of local schools. That's why the Board of Education voted unanimously to place a school facilities improvement bond measure on the March 5, 2024 ballot for local voters to consider. If approved by at least 55% of voters in HUSD, the measure would provide \$550 million in locally controlled funding to upgrade local schools. No funds may be used for administrator salaries and no funds may be taken by the State.

**Q. Would a local school facilities improvement bond measure fund basic repairs and improvements to aging schools?**

**A.** Yes, locally controlled funding from a school facilities improvement bond measure would be used to repair or replace deteriorating plumbing, sewer lines, gas lines, and electrical systems. It would also fund the removal of hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes in older school sites. Funds could also be used to upgrade older schools, so they meet current health codes, building safety codes and provide access for students with disabilities.

**Q. Would a local school facilities improvement bond measure upgrade schools to current instructional standards?**

**A.** Yes, locally controlled funding from a school facilities improvement bond measure would be used to provide modern classrooms, labs, career training facilities technology and equipment to support high quality instruction in math, science, engineering, and technology. This will help ensure HUSD graduates are prepared for college and in-demand careers in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology, and skilled trades.

**Q. Would a local school facilities improvement bond measure improve student safety and campus security?**

**A.** Yes, local funding from a school facilities improvement bond measure would be used to upgrade older schools to meet current health codes, building safety codes, earthquake safety standards, and improve access for students with disabilities. It would also improve student safety and campus security systems including security fencing, security cameras, intruder-protection systems, and emergency communications systems.

**Q. Would a local school facilities improvement bond measure improve earthquake safety?**

**A.** Yes, local funding from a school facilities improvement bond measure would be used to improve earthquake safety to meet current seismic standards for schools. In fact, Bret Harte Middle School is located on the Hayward fault and does not meet current seismic safety standards. This measure would fund the relocation of BHMS to a seismically safe location.

**Q. How much would a local school facilities improvement bond measure cost homeowners?**

**A.** The Board of Education voted to place a \$550 million school facilities improvement bond measure on the March 5, 2024 ballot. The \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) tax rate for this bond would not increase HUSD's total bond tax rate beyond the amount previously approved by voters. In other words, HUSD can issue new bonds to continue repairing and upgrading local school facilities without increasing the total tax rate above the level already approved by voters.

**Q. How can residents be sure funds would be spent as promised?**

**A.** A school facilities improvement bond measure would require a clear system of fiscal accountability including a detailed project list indicating the only projects that may be funded by the measure, a Citizens' Oversight Committee and independent audits to review the use of funds and required public disclosure of all spending.

**Q. Could the State take away funding from a school facilities improvement bond measure?**

**A.** No. All funds must stay local and may only be used to upgrade classrooms and school facilities in HUSD. No funds may be taken away by the State or diverted to other school districts.

**Q. Would a local school facilities bond measure help HUSD qualify for state matching funds?**

**A.** Yes. Funds from a local measure could be used to help HUSD compete for state matching funds that would otherwise go to other school districts.

**Q. Didn't we already pass bond measures? Why another one?**

**A.** The original Facilities Master Plan from 2006 outlined the need for four separate bond measures to address the identified needs. To date, HUSD has passed three bond measures to fund a portion of the work. The proposed March 2024 bond measure would be the fourth bond measure and would address remaining facility improvements to help ensure all HUSD students attend class in safe and modern classrooms.

**Q. Are senior exemptions available?**

**A.** By state law, no exemptions may be provided for bond measures. However, the total cost of bond measures is based on the assessed value of a home, not the market value. The longer a home has been owned, the lower the assessed value because it is based on the original purchase price. Typically, older homeowners who have owned their homes the longest pay the least for bond measure.

**Q. When would a measure appear on the ballot?**

**A.** The Board of Education voted to place a school facilities improvement bond measure on the March 5, 2024 ballot.

**Q. What level of support is required to pass a bond measure?**

**A.** At least 55% of those voters who cast a ballot on the measure must vote "Yes" in order for it to be approved.

**Q. Where can I find additional information or share my feedback?**

**A.** As HUSD finalizes plans to update local school facilities, we value your input. For more information or to share your thoughts, please contact: Allan Garde, Assistant Superintendent of Business, [agarde@husd.us](mailto:agarde@husd.us) or 510-784-2600.