

## **Buena Park School District FAQ's**

### **How are Buena Park schools doing?**

Buena Park School District (BPSD) is committed to providing a rigorous educational program that nurtures our nearly 4,000 students from Buena Park and parts of La Palma, Anaheim, La Mirada, and Fullerton. We are proud to have won numerous national and state academic awards across our five elementary schools and two middle schools. Our strong schools improve the quality of life in our community for everyone.

### **What challenges are Buena Park schools facing?**

Our schools were built in the 1960s and while many classrooms have been updated, some still need repairs. Roofs and old plumbing need replacement, outdated electrical systems struggle to support newer technology standards, and nearly 100 aging portable classrooms need to either be replaced or updated to permanent classrooms. To meet current safety and education standards, it is time to modernize and upgrade our schools.

### **How is Buena Park School District planning to address these issues?**

While no decisions have been made, BPSD is considering placing a school improvement bond measure on the November 2024 ballot to update our schools and continue providing a high-quality education. The measure could generate up to \$82 million in locally controlled funding for school projects.

### **Specifically, what could this school improvement bond measure do?**

- Repair and upgrade older schools, classrooms and outdoor spaces so they meet current building safety codes, and provide proper access for students with disabilities
- Replace old portable classrooms to support high quality instruction in science, math, engineering, and technology
- Fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems
- Keep computer systems and instructional technology up to date
- Improve student safety, campus security including fencing, cameras, intruder protection systems, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and sprinklers

### **How do we know funds from a potential measure would be spent wisely?**

By law, a bond measure would require accountability protections, including:

- All funds would be controlled locally for BPSD schools only and could not be taken away by the State
- A detailed project list outlining the specific use of funds would be required
- An independent citizens' oversight committee and mandatory annual audits would ensure all funds are spent as voters intended

### **How much would this school improvement bond measure cost?**

By law, the measure would be limited to no more than \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) valuation of local property, or about \$129 per year for the typical homeowner, for as long as bonds are outstanding. Assessed value is based on the original purchase price of a home and is often lower than market value, particularly for those residents that have owned their homes for a long time.

**Would all funds benefit all schools in BPSD?**

Yes. All funds would be locally controlled and would benefit Buena Park School District elementary and middle schools. No funding could be taken away by the State or used for other purposes. A project list would provide information on how funds would be spent at school sites.

**Is there any other way to maintain and improve our schools?**

Our district has very few options when it comes to funding the necessary repairs and updates that our schools need. Unfortunately, the State does not provide funding for facilities updates without local matching funds. Redirecting funds in the current budget would take resources out of our classrooms and away from our students. A potential facilities improvement bond measure could provide the funding needed to fix and improve school facilities to ensure we can continue to provide a safe, modern learning environment for all local students.

**Haven't we already passed a bond measure?**

Yes. 10 years ago, in 2014 the BPSD community passed Measure B, a \$71 million school facilities bond measure. Funds from Measure B bonds have helped fund the first phase of upgrades to Buena Park District schools and classrooms.

**Has the District used funds from previous measures responsibly?**

Yes. The Measure B citizens' oversight committee has found that BPSD completed Measure B projects on time and aligned with voter-approved priorities. The oversight committee reports can be viewed at: <https://www.bpsd.us/divisions/fiscal-services/citizens-oversight-committee>.

**What level of support does a potential bond measure need to pass?**

A potential measure would need to be supported by 55% of voters in order for it to pass. If placed on the November 2024 ballot, all registered voters living in the Buena Park School District would be eligible to vote on the measure.

**How can I share feedback and learn more?**

Planning for the future of our schools is a community process, and as BPSD looks to the future your input is important to us. To share your thoughts, please take our survey by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/BPSDPriorities> or contact [bondinfo@bpsd.us](mailto:bondinfo@bpsd.us)