



REDLANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Redlands USD Parents,

We take great pride in our wonderful teachers and amazing students, and we are always striving to improve the quality of education in our District. This includes ensuring that our students have the best classroom learning environments to succeed. Unfortunately, over 80% of schools in the Redlands Unified School District were built over fifty years ago, and are now in urgent need of basic repairs to protect the health and safety of students.

One major challenge that our older campuses are experiencing is that, due to outdated electrical wiring and HVAC systems, some campuses are experiencing more frequent blackouts/brownouts due to the increasing number of extremely hot days. In the 2022-2023 school year, there were 75 days that reached temperatures of 95 degrees or more with a high of 111. Not only do blackouts disrupt learning, extreme heat also puts students at risk. We need to upgrade local schools so they can fix outdated electrical wiring, and install efficient air conditioning systems, repair deteriorating windows and install shade structures to keep students safe.

We are also very cognizant of the national landscape when it comes to ensuring student safety on our campuses. Last year saw a record number of school shootings in the US that put over 43,000 students in harm's way. We are looking at ways for our local neighborhood schools to enhance security, including upgrading emergency communications systems, lighting, door locks, fencing, alarms and cameras on all school campuses that will help us maintain student safety so that students, teachers and staff remain safe should we ever experience such a devastating event.

This is why we've started working with parents, teachers, principals and community members to develop a fiscally responsible Teacher Retention and Classroom Repair plan to present to our Stakeholders and the Community in the coming months. One possible solution is a local, Creating Safer Schools Proposition 39 GO Bond Measure for the November 2024 election. Such a measure would require 55% voter approval, and if passed could pay for many of the repair and technology upgrade needs in our schools while also helping us qualify for state matching funds. All funds from such a Measure would remain local, just to benefit our Redlands USD schools, and these funds can only be spent on 'brick and mortar' items and cannot be used to pay teacher/staff salaries or anything not specifically outlined in a Bond Project List. Additionally, these funds cannot not be taken away by the State.

Please take a moment to participate in the ThoughtExchange survey to share your top priorities. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at: creatingsaferschools@redlands.k12.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Juan J. Cabral
Superintendent