Colton Joint Unified
School District
1212 Valencia Dr.
Colton, CA 92324

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## How are Colton Joint Unified Schools doing?

In the Colton Joint Unified School District (CJUSD), we believe each student deserves the academic proficiency and skills necessary to thrive in college and in the global workforce to earn a living wage and be responsible, productive citizens.

## What is the state of CJUSD's facilities?

Many of our neighborhood schools were built over 60 years ago and do not meet modern safety and education standards. Older roofs and electrical systems need to be repaired and updated, with some underground pipes needing replacement to prevent water leaks.

Our District also has over 175 portable classrooms at schools that are at least 25 years old, falling apart, and have ongoing damage which is expensive to repair. It is time to update our schools and replace decaying portables with modern, permanent classrooms.

## How is the District planning to address these needs?

To provide a safe and updated learning environment for our students, Colton Joint Unified School District is considering placing a school improvement bond on the November 2024 ballot.

## How would funding from a local school facilities improvement measure be used?

Funding from a potential measure could be used to:

- Upgrade older schools so they meet current health codes, building safety codes, and provide proper access for students with disabilities
- Remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes from older school sites
- Provide modern labs, career technical facilities, equipment so students are prepared for college, in-demand careers in fields
- Make repairs to older classrooms and school facilities including deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems
- Replace portable classrooms with permanent buildings

## How can we make sure the funds are spent responsibly?

Any potential local funding measure would include strict fiscal accountability requirements, including all funds would be controlled locally and could not be taken away by the State, none of the funds raised could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions and independent citizens' oversight and annual audits would ensure all funds are used for voter-approved projects.

**If you would like to add your thoughts to the conversation, you can still take our survey online by scanning the QR code to the left.**

# We Heard You



# Community Feedback Report on Priorities for Neighborhood Schools

# Providing Safe and Modern Schools for Our Students

## Upgrading Aging Classrooms to Keep Local Students Safe

Many of our neighborhood schools were built over 60 years ago and require repairs and upgrades to ensure all students have equal access to safe and updated educational facilities. While some of our schools have received updates and been modernized, many have not. Older roofs and electrical systems need to be repaired and updated, along with other infrastructure such as water, sewer, gas, and storm drain systems. Our District also has over 175 portable classrooms that are at least 25 years old and need expensive repairs or replacement. It is time to update our schools and replace decaying portables with modern, permanent classrooms.

## Your Priorities for Protecting High-Quality Instruction

In April, the District mailed you a survey describing the importance of a second high school and asked you to share your priorities for a potential measure to help plan for the future. Here is what the District heard are the top community priorities for neighborhood schools:

**98%** Upgrade older schools to meet current health and safety codes

**96%** Repair deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation and electrical systems

**95%** Update science, technology, engineering and math labs at every school

**92%** Provide proper access for students with disabilities

**92%** Remove hazardous materials where needed

**Percent of respondents marking items as high or medium priority. Responses received through May 16, 2024.*





*Aging school facilities need to be repaired and replaced*

## Locally Controlled Funding for School Improvements

To provide safer, state-of-the-art learning environments for our students, Colton Joint Unified School District is considering placing a $246 million school improvement bond on the November 2024 ballot. While no final decision has been made, this bond would cost property owners $50 per $100,000 of assessed (not market) value for as long as bonds are outstanding, or approximately $124.07 per year for the median homeowner.



**This potential school improvement measure would enable CJUSD to:**

- **Upgrade older schools so they meet current health codes, building safety codes, provide proper access for students with disabilities**
- **Remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes from older school sites**
- **Provide modern labs, career technical facilities, equipment so students are prepared for college and in-demand careers**
- **Make repairs to older classrooms and school facilities including deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems**
- **Replace aging portables with new permanent classroom buildings**

## Mandatory Fiscal Accountability and Local Control

Any potential local funding measure would include strict fiscal accountability requirements, including:

- All funds would be controlled locally and could not be taken away by the State
- None of the money raised could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions
- Independent citizens' oversight and annual audits would ensure all funds are used for voter-approved projects