



SPRING 2022



THE DISTRICT BRIDGE
Building Our Future

Dear Friends,

One of our great rewards as educators is seeing results in real time. When a child jumps in to solve a problem, or raises a hand with excitement, we know we're making a difference. Regular, formal testing gives us the exact data we need to measure growth, but a child's enthusiasm for learning and bright smile offer us some pretty good clues.

These are moments of joy for an educator. Every bit of growth is a celebration — an indicator that we are on track with our longer-term goals — preparing children for higher education and career success.

Research shows that the kind of rich and rigorous lessons we deliver help prepare children for economic stability and well-being in the future. Today's investments will deliver significant long-term rewards — prepared workers, compassionate leaders, and bright futures for individuals and their communities.

Our own community continues to astound me with its unfailing support of our children, enabling us to provide safe, modern schools, and helping us set District priorities.

We are so grateful for your partnership, trust, and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Gallagher'.

Michael Gallagher, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Sunnyvale School District



OUR SCHOOLS

Bishop Elementary
Cherry Chase Elementary
Cumberland Elementary
Ellis Elementary
Fairwood Explorer
Lakewood Tech EQ
San Miguel Elementary
Vargas Elementary
Columbia Middle
Sunnyvale Middle

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey Arnett
Isabel Jubes-Flamerich
Michelle Maginot
Nancy Newkirk
Bridget Watson

Community-informed Priorities

Early in the pandemic, we and our community partners provided hotspots, electronic devices, and meals to students, and pivoted to online instruction so learning could continue uninterrupted.

Today our priority is on safe, in-person instruction. With the help of State-awarded emergency pandemic funding, we have hired more health assistants, conducted weekly COVID-19 testing, and installed additional air filtration in every classroom, augmenting our already upgraded ventilation systems.

We have also prioritized interventions for children who are most vulnerable to pandemic-related learning loss. Funding priorities were determined with the help of teachers, staff, students, families, and community members, who gave input through meetings, surveys, and direct email messages.

Uninterrupted learning has been our goal throughout the pandemic. Sunnyvale School District (SSD) was recently named a model district by the California Department of Education's School Attendance Review Board. The Board cited our team's exemplary practices to overcome attendance challenges and improve student attendance. SSD was honored to be one of the six districts in the State of California to receive this recognition.

To learn more about how we are investing our COVID-19 emergency funds, visit <https://www.sesd.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=1231>.





Safe Places. Safe Spaces.

Like all our major expenditures, our COVID-19 investments align with our broader three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Community members involved in LCAP planning identify investment priorities to help students who have historically been denied equitable learning opportunities — English Language Learners (ELL), foster youth, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students — and to ensure that ALL our students have what they need for academic and social-emotional growth. Our LCAP goals include:

- Ensuring all students have equitable access to positive learning conditions — strong teachers, well-maintained facilities and equipment, and standards-aligned learning materials,
- Providing equitable and responsive instruction that prepares all students for higher learning or career readiness,
- Teaching and modeling social-emotional skills and teaching in a culturally responsive way so all children can reach their learning potential,
- Supporting student success by fostering an inclusive a welcoming environment for all district families, and
- Accelerating learning outcomes for English Language Learners.

In addition to providing direct support for students, our initial LCAP investments have focused on facilities and equipment maintenance and upgrades, and professional development for teachers. To learn more, please visit our website at <https://www.sesd.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=1231>.



Progressing According to Plan

Our community has made it possible for us to maintain, restore, and renovate campuses District-wide, so we can deliver quality education for generations to come. It's a responsibility we approach with care. In 2020, Sunnyvale School District began updating our Facilities Master Plan (FMP) — a long-term plan of action for modernizing our facilities over the next 10 to 15 years. Our FMP is a compilation of renovation projects for each school site, prioritized according to urgency of need and the District's vision for educational excellence.

The plan was crafted with the help of a professional demographer, LPA Design Architecture Firm, and input from educators, District families, students, and community partners. More than 2,600 people provided insight into our facility needs. The modernization projects will also help us respond nimbly to evolving instructional practices.

Priorities range from site-wide routine maintenance to brand-new construction. Learning spaces are being created in accordance with Learning Space Design Standards — research-based criteria for creating flexible and effective learning environments.

To learn more about the Facilities Master Plan, visit our website and navigate to the Operations Department under Departments at www.sesd.org.



Update from the Eagles' Nest

Phase I of construction at Ellis Elementary — home of the Eagles — is well underway. Four classroom wings, the kindergarten playground, and the old staff room have been fully demolished to make way for three brand-new, two-story classroom buildings.

So far, we have off-hauled 1,000 cubic yards of soil, excavated 800 cubic yards of footings, placed 152,000 pounds of rebar, installed 34,000 pounds of steel, and poured 1,260 cubic yards of concrete!

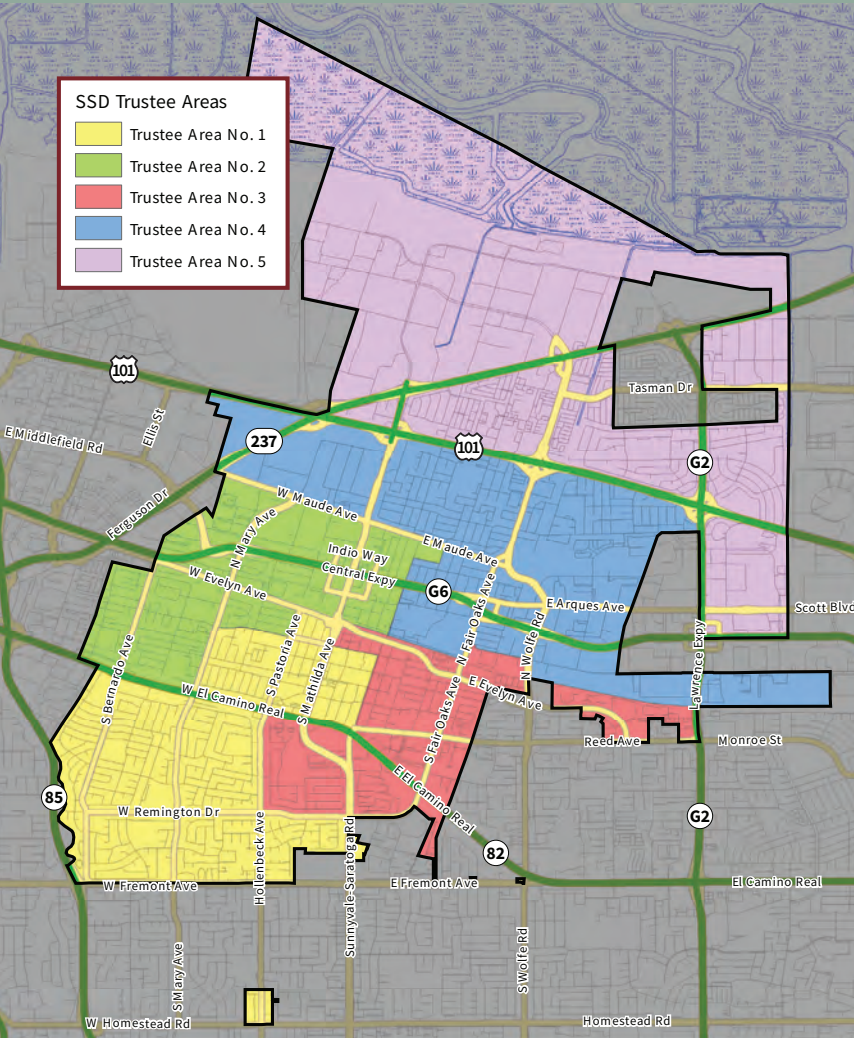
Look for a new administration building and parking lot in addition to our new classroom buildings at the end of this first phase of the project.

Phase II of the construction project will include renovating two more classrooms, building a new daycare facility, and constructing a sparkling new building for our youngest Ellis pupils — our kindergarteners.

These site improvements have been made possible by our voters' approval of Measures G and GG. Search for the Bond Program under the About Us section on our website at www.sesd.org to learn more!

Thank you for helping our Eagles soar!

Sunnyvale School District Trustee Areas



Election Changes Ahead

Changes are coming to a polling place near you!

This November, our District will transition from an at-large election system to a by-trustee-area election, in which each Board member will be elected to represent a specific geographic area within district boundaries.

This new approach has been adopted by hundreds of districts throughout California. The system adheres to the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), and offers greater opportunities for Board candidates that might not be elected under the at-large election system.

At Sunnyvale School District, our Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing our work to serve children and families. Board members are publicly elected from within our own community and play a critical role in establishing priorities, approving expenditures, and ensuring our work is benefiting every child in our District.

The current Board members will continue in office until the expiration of their terms in 2022 or 2024. To learn more about the process, visit <https://www.sesd.org/Page/5360>.



819 W. Iowa Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

www.sesd.org

Our Mission

Sunnyvale School District provides every student with a strong foundation of academic, behavioral, and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in a diverse, challenging and changing world.



SCAN ME!

or visit our website at
sesd.org to learn more!



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