

Facilities and Capacity

Frequently Asked Questions



Enrollment and Capacity

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| 1 | How does the FCUSD project enrollment? | The District utilizes an outside demographer and in-house staff to examine birth rates, housing development data, and historical trends to project future enrollment. |
| 2 | How often does FCUSD conduct and review enrollment projections? | Enrollment projections are reviewed throughout the year and updated as needed based on new housing developments and demographic shifts. |
| 3 | How is FCUSD preparing for boundary modifications at FHS in the future? | The district continuously reviews enrollment trends and works with stakeholders to determine if boundary adjustments are necessary. Public input will be part of any decision-making process. |
| 4 | If overcrowding is happening in high schools and middle schools, why is FCUSD building an elementary school before a middle and high school? | The district must plan for long-term growth. Elementary schools must be built based on enrollment projections in advance to accommodate younger students who will eventually move on to middle and high school. |
| 5 | When will a new school be built in Folsom Ranch? | The timeline depends on funding, enrollment trends, and construction timelines. The district evaluates these factors regularly. A new elementary school is slated to open in Folsom Ranch in 2028, a new middle school is planned to open in 2031, and a new high school is scheduled to open in 2029. All of these projects are dependent on securing funding to complete construction. |
| 6 | Is it true that FCUSD has allowed overcrowding to increase funding for local schools? | No, FCUSD does not intentionally allow overcrowding for funding. |

Enrollment and Capacity *(continued)*

7	Why is FCUSD only building schools in Folsom?	New school construction is based on population growth and need. Currently, Folsom is experiencing growth at a rate higher than FCUSD schools in Rancho Cordova.
8	How often does FCUSD conduct and review enrollment projections?	Enrollment projections are reviewed throughout the year and updated as needed based on new housing developments and demographic shifts.
9	What is the timeline for building a new school in Rancho Cordova?	A specialty high school is estimated to open in 2029 and the first elementary school in Rio del Oro is estimated to open for 2032 school year.
10	Why doesn't FCUSD validate the physical address of returning students?	The district must plan for long-term growth. Elementary schools must be built based on enrollment projections in advance to accommodate younger students who will eventually move on to middle and high school.
11	When will a new school be built in Folsom Ranch?	Upon initial enrollment, FCUSD validates the address of a new student. When we are informed that a student has moved out of the District, we promptly notify the family that they have 10 school days to either complete an Interdistrict Transfer Permit (ITP) or enroll at their new school of residence. In situations where the move occurs within the final 30 days of the school year or near the end of a trimester or semester, we have, on occasion, permitted the student to remain enrolled beyond the 10 days to support continuity of learning.

Funding and School Construction

12	Where is the funding for elementary schools south of 50 coming from?	Funding comes from a combination of sources, including developer fees, local bond measures, and if available, state matching funds. State matching funding is contingent on both having a local bond measure and the availability of state funding. Additionally, state funding does not come to the district until after a project is completed.
13	Do property taxes collected from homes in Folsom Ranch fund Folsom schools?	All school funding comes from three main categories including personal income, property taxes, and sales and use taxes. Not all property tax revenue goes toward education operational expenses, as it is distributed to fund other local services at the city and county level as well.
14	Don't developer fees cover the cost of new school construction?	<p>In California, school development impact fees, also known as developer fees, are collected by school districts to mitigate the impact of new residential and commercial developments on school facilities. These fees can be used for various purposes, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Construction or Reconstruction of School Facilities: The fees can be used to build new school facilities or to reconstruct existing ones to accommodate the increased number of students resulting from new developments.2. Temporary and Permanent Facilities: The collected fees may be used to pay for both temporary and permanent school facilities. This includes the costs associated with bonds, notes, loans, leases, or other installment agreements3. Site Acquisition and Development: The fees can cover the costs of acquiring and developing sites for new school facilities. This includes design, inspection, and furnishing costs associated with the construction4. Compliance with Legislation: The fees are levied in compliance with legislation such as AB 2926 and SB 519, which authorize school districts to charge these fees and outline the specific uses for the funds5. Mitigation of Impacts: The fees are intended to mitigate the impacts on school facilities resulting from new residential and commercial developments. This includes ensuring that the school district can maintain adequate facilities to serve the increased student population <p>These fees are essential for school districts to manage growth and ensure that they can provide adequate educational facilities for all students. While these funds support expanding capacity, alone, they are not sufficient to cover the full cost of building new school campuses.</p>

Funding and School Construction (*Continued*)

- 15 Why isn't there sufficient funding with existing revenue to build schools? New school construction is expensive, and while developer fees help, they are not enough to fund entire schools. Bond measures and state funding are needed to bridge the gap.
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- 16 Wasn't Measure M supposed to pay for new schools in Folsom Ranch? Measure M, passed in 2007, was a mechanism to support new school construction within SFID 3, which covers the area south of Hwy 50 in Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and unincorporated areas that fall within our District boundaries. Bonds are funded through property tax assessments based on the assessed value (not the market value) of a home. Currently, there is not a sufficient resident base or assessed home value within the SFID to fund new school construction.
- External economic factors also impacted the use of Measure M. Passed nearly 20 years ago, it was based on projected development at that time. What followed was the housing market collapse and great recession. Halting development for 10-15 years, which was then followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which further stalled development. Over the past 15+ years, land development and building costs have increased at a rate of 2.5-3 times what the cost of construction was 20 years ago. Put simply, while construction halted, costs skyrocketed.
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- 17 What is an SFID? A School Facility Improvement District (SFID) is a specific area within a school district designated to finance school facility improvements through a special tax levied on property within that area. SFIDs allow districts to target specific areas that benefit from improvements and can be used to fund projects like new schools, renovations, or modernization efforts.
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School Facilities Bond

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| 18 | If FCUSD pursues a bond and the bond doesn't pass, what happens? | Without additional bond funding, the district may be unable to build new schools or upgrade existing ones. Overcrowding could increase, school choice within the district could be halted, interdistrict transfers would continue to be suspended, and temporary solutions like portables may need to be used. |
| 19 | Why should I pay for a school bond that will fund construction at a school my child will not attend? | Strong schools within a school district benefit the entire community. They ensure existing schools do not get overcrowded, they increase property values, improve workforce readiness, and attract businesses and families to the area. Additionally, school construction is expensive, and funding from a single community for their neighborhood school would not be sufficient to fund the construction. |

Transfers and School Choice

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| 20 | What is an Inter-District Transfer? | An Inter-District Transfer allows a student to attend a school outside their home district with approval from both the home and receiving districts. |
| 21 | What is an Intra-District Transfer? | An Intra-District Transfer allows a student to attend a different school within FCUSD, subject to space availability and district policies. |
| 22 | Why are Intra-District Transfers happening anywhere in our district if we are facing overcrowding? | Intra-District Transfers are granted based on available space and specific criteria, such as unique educational needs or family circumstances. Some schools may have space even if others are full. Intra-District Transfers are continuously evaluated to ensure capacity levels are maintained. |

Transfers and School Choice (Continued)

23	Why are Inter-District Transfer at Folsom Middle School still happening?	ITPs are approved based on capacity at specific schools. If Folsom Middle School has room in certain grade levels, transfers may still be allowed.
24	If a student resides within the Folsom High School boundary, can they still enroll at Vista Del Lago?	An Intra-District Transfer allows a student to attend a different school within FCUSD, subject to space availability and district policies.
25	Why are Intra-District Transfers happening anywhere in our district if we are facing overcrowding?	Historically, a student could “Choice” or Intradistrict Transfer between schools within the district. As Vista capacity continues to grow and becomes limited, students within the district can submit a request to enroll and the District will allocate available spaces based on a random drawing. This lottery system is only held when there are more students “choosing” to attend a school than space allows, as was the case this year for Vista.

Class Size, Scheduling and Course Availability

26	How does FCUSD accommodate students when elective classes are at capacity?	If demand exceeds capacity, students are placed based on priority criteria, which may include grade level, graduation requirements, and scheduling constraints.
27	With different schedules between Folsom High and Vista Del Lago, how does the District ensure that a student’s coursework is transferable between schools.	The district works to ensure credit transferability between scheduling systems. Counselors assist students in making adjustments when transitioning between schools.

Class Size, Scheduling and Course Availability (Continued)

- 28 What is optimal capacity? Optional capacity is a term used to balance the needs of the students with the available space. Optimal capacity allows a teacher to take their prep time in their classroom, so basically, one teacher per room. Optimal capacity varies by school based on the size of the classrooms and teachers available.
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- 29 What is hotseating? Hotseating is a practice where a classroom is used throughout the day, regardless if that classroom's primary teacher is on his/her prep period. A different teacher will utilize that space during that time. This practice helps reduce overcrowding in the classroom.
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