



Delano Union School District
1405 12th Ave.
Delano, CA 93215



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How are schools in Delano Union School District doing?

DUSD serves approximately 6,200 students in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through 8th grade and strives to provide students with a high-quality education, preparing them for high school and beyond. Teachers and staff strive to deliver a supportive learning environment that models a strong, positive work ethic, sparks an attitude of inquiry and enthusiasm for learning, and enables students to become productive and responsible citizens.

What challenges are our local schools facing?

We're proud of the high quality of education in Delano schools, but some of our schools were built over 70 years ago and need repairs and upgrades to meet current academic and safety standards. For our students to be prepared for high school, college and careers, they should be skilled in the use of today's technologies and have a solid background in science, technology, engineering, arts and math.

What is DUSD's plan to upgrade aging school facilities for our students?

In 2019, DUSD completed a comprehensive Facilities Assessment and Implementation Plan to prioritize facility needs for our schools. In order to fund projects in the facilities plan, the DUSD Board of Trustees recently decided to place a school bond measure on the November 2024 ballot. The measure will fund school improvement projects and would make the District eligible for up to \$7 million in State-matching funds – funds that could otherwise go to other school districts.

How much will the measure cost?

If passed by voters, the bond measure will generate approximately \$41.8 million to upgrade local schools and will cost taxpayers approximately \$25 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value (not market value) per year, while bonds are outstanding. It is projected that the new measure will not increase the current tax rate that property owners are paying for the District's outstanding bonds.

Para recibir esta información en español, por favor visita www.duesd.org/domain/635



AN UPDATE FROM DELANO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADDRESSING FACILITIES NEEDS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS



Dear Neighbor,

As we begin a new school year, I am consistently reminded of the honor it is to serve as Delano Union School District (DUSD) Superintendent. Our unwavering mission is to provide a robust and well-rounded foundation for students to achieve their full potential. We know that safe, happy, and healthy students are more likely to achieve academically, and we're proud of the high quality of education in DUSD schools.

Updating Local Schools to Support Student Learning

As DUSD plans for the future, we know that our schools are aging and need significant repairs as schools built in the 1990s and as far back as the 1950s were built for a different era of education and do not meet current safety and academic standards. In 2019, DUSD completed a comprehensive Facilities Assessment and Implementation Plan to prioritize facility needs for our schools in order to provide our students with up-to-date, safe learning environments.

The facilities plan includes projects such as replacing deteriorating portable classrooms with permanent classrooms, renovating classrooms to support flexible learning environments, and upgrading classroom technology to meet current learning standards.

Addressing Repair and Upgrade Needs in DUSD Schools

The needs identified in the facilities plan are far beyond what can be funded from the District's budget. In order to keep pace with academic standards and provide safe and modern classrooms for Delano elementary and middle school students, the DUSD Board of Trustees recently voted to place a school improvement bond measure on the November 2024 ballot. The measure will provide locally controlled funding to complete prioritized projects at our schools. Please continue reading to learn more or visit www.duesd.org/domain/635.

Thank you to our community, the DUSD staff, and our teachers for continuing to help pave the way for our students' futures.

In partnership,

Rosalina Rivera

Rosalina Rivera, Superintendent
Delano Union School District



LOCAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

To improve Delano elementary and middle schools and provide safe and modern classrooms for local students, the Delano Union School District Board of Trustees unanimously voted to place a \$41.8 million school facilities bond measure on the November 2024 ballot. If approved, this measure would provide locally controlled funding for school facility improvements. The bond measure would cost homeowners approximately \$25 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value (not market value), annually, while bonds are outstanding. It is currently projected that a new measure would not increase the current tax rate that property owners are paying for the District's outstanding bonds.

If approved by 55% of local voters, a school facilities bond measure could:

- ★ Upgrade classrooms, libraries, music and arts classrooms to support student learning
- ★ Update and improve fire safety systems, school security and emergency communications systems
- ★ Enhance instructional technology in classrooms for student learning
- ★ Repair or replace leaky roofs, heating and cooling systems and outdated plumbing
- ★ Improve accessibility for students with disabilities

MANDATORY FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A school facilities bond measure requires mandatory fiscal accountability provisions to ensure proper use of funds, including:

- ★ All funds raised by this measure would be required to be spent locally to improve neighborhood schools
- ★ The measure would require independent citizens' oversight and mandatory annual audits to ensure the money is spent as promised
- ★ By law, no funds could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions

