

Santa Ana Unified School District 1601 East Chestnut Avenue Santa Ana, CA 92701-6322 NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID CORNERSTONE

MIDDLE COLLEGE







Learn More about SAUSD's Plans to Repair Aging Schools

REPAIRING AND UPGRADING SANTA ANA SCHOOLS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION AND STUDENT SAFETY

Dear Neighbor,

The Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) strives for every student to graduate with the skills needed to succeed in college, careers, or skilled trades. To meet these goals, our students must be prepared to use future technologies and must have advanced classes in science, math, and engineering.

Many of our schools were built more than 70 years ago and do not meet today's building or safety codes. Some schools have hazardous materials like asbestos and lead, crumbling infrastructure, gas and water leaks, and sewage backups. Many of the science labs have not been upgraded in 30 years and need updates to meet today's academic standards.

Each day, thousands of local students attend class in portable classrooms that are more than 20 years old and that are now beyond their intended lifespan. Many have structural damage and are expensive to keep repairing.

The SAUSD Board of Education has voted to place a school repair and upgrade bond measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot to address these needs and provide high-quality spaces for learning.

We welcome community participation in this process. If you would like to learn more about the school bond measure or provide feedback, please visit sausd.us/bondinfo.

Sincerely,

Jerry Almendarez, Superintendent Santa Ana Unified School District



AGING CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES NEED REPAIRS

SAUSD has completed a comprehensive assessment of all classrooms and school facilities in the District and has developed plans for repairs and upgrades. Since the State does not provide dedicated funding to repair and upgrade classrooms and school facilities, these improvements must be funded locally.

To improve our local schools, the Board of Education has voted to place a school repair bond measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot. The school bond measure could generate \$355 million (levying 3¢ per \$100 assessed value) in locally controlled funding exclusively for repairing and upgrading SAUSD schools. It would also help SAUSD qualify for as much as \$267 million in state matching funds over the next several years, securing dollars for our community instead of funds going elsewhere. If approved by local voters, funding from this measure could be used to:



Remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead from older schools, if present



Upgrade older schools so they meet current health and building safety codes, and provide access for students with disabilities



Provide modern labs, career technology facilities, and equipment so students are prepared for college and in-demand career fields



Keep computer systems and instructional technology up-to-date



Repair or replace deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and electrical

LOCALLY CONTROLLED FUNDING TO IMPROVE OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

Fiscal accountability would be required, including:

- ✓ An independent citizens' oversight committee and mandatory independent annual audits to ensure funds are spent properly
- ✓ Public disclosure of all spending and reports to the community
- ✓ No funds could be taken by the State or federal entities.

STAYING CONNECTED AS SAUSD MOVES FORWARD:

To stay connected and up to date with SAUSD, please visit our website and other social media platforms for information and updates as we continue to plan for the future of local schools.



SAUSD.us 6/SAUSD



