



Frequently Asked Questions

Santa Ana Unified School District Bond Measure

How is Santa Ana Unified School District doing?

From year to year, Santa Ana Unified is among the heads of the class due to our great student progress and our ability to bring home some of the top prizes and awards available. With a rising District-wide graduation rate, currently 92.7%, 51 schools identified as California PBIS Exemplar Schools, six (6) designated as California Gold Ribbon Schools and four (4) high schools on the *U.S. News and World Report* annual best high schools list, Santa Ana Unified stands out as a district of choice for many Orange County parents.

Our students enjoy access to a host of athletic offerings, including Cross Country, Tennis and Water Polo, a robust visual and performing arts program, internships, 32 career and technical education pathways, an International Baccalaureate World Program, early college options, and free college tuition and a laptop when they attend Santa Ana College full-time their freshman year.

What challenges are facing our schools?

Many of our schools were built more than 40 years ago and need to be modernized to support quality education. The District's current facilities needs are estimated at well over \$1.5 billion. Some classrooms, labs and other school facilities are deteriorating, and roofs, plumbing and electrical systems need to be repaired and even replaced. Upgrades to our schools will help ensure our District can serve our students for decades to come.

How is the District planning to address these issues?

Academic standards are rising for what it takes to compete in the 21st Century. We need to upgrade our schools, facilities and classrooms to keep pace. On July 16, the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Education placed a \$232 million school improvement bond measure on the November 6, 2018 ballot. A local bond measure would provide locally-controlled funding to repair and improve local schools.





What would the school improvement bond measure provide for our students?

A local measure would:

- Provide the classrooms, laboratories, facilities and technology needed to support high quality instruction in math, science, engineering and technology
- Repair or replace deteriorating roofs, plumbing, gas and electrical systems
- Provide modern science labs, engineering labs and career technical education facilities so students are prepared for college and in-demand careers in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology, robotics and skilled trades
- Upgrade older schools so they meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools
- Replace failing heating and ventilation systems and improve insulation, doors, windows and irrigation to improve energy and water efficiency and save money
- Remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead paint from older school sites

How much would the local measure cost?

The local bond measure would cost approximately \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) annually, or about \$5.25 per month for the typical homeowner.

Could funds be taken away by the State?

No. All funds would stay local to help Santa Ana schools and could not be taken away by the State.

How would I know that funds would be spent appropriately?

The measure would require an independent citizens' oversight committee, annual audits and a detailed project list to ensure that funds are spent as promised. By law, none of the funds could be used for administrators' or teachers' salaries or benefits.

Are there other ways to update and improve our schools?

Our District has few options when it comes to funding necessary repairs and updates that our schools need. We cannot rely on State funding to complete these repairs. Redirecting funds in the current budget would take resources out of our classrooms and away from our students. A local school improvement bond measure would provide the funding needed to repair and improve school facilities to ensure safe, modern learning environment for all local students.

A measure would also make SAUSD eligible for \$62 million in State matching funds that would otherwise go to other school districts.





Didn't we already pass a bond measure for SAUSD schools?

Yes, in 2008 Santa Ana voters approved Measure G, a \$200 million bond to fund critical repairs and upgrades for Santa Ana schools. Due to smart financial management, the District maximized taxpayer dollars by leveraging State matching funds, providing \$600 million for local school improvements. All Measure G funds have been expended or are committed to projects currently being completed. The funds from Measure G were spent on time and on budget and were never intended to address all our school repairs and upgrades. Measure G passed 10 years ago, and there is more work that needs to be done. This measure would fund the next phase of improvements to local schools.

Is additional funding necessary to ensure our students are ready for college and future careers?

Yes. Santa Ana students need to be prepared to compete in the Orange County job market. A bond measure would provide classrooms, technology, facilities, labs and equipment for career and technology education classes and instruction in math and science. This would enable the District to prepare our students for college and in-demand jobs in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology and skilled trades. Academic standards are rising for what it takes to be successful in the 21st Century. This measure would ensure local students have access to the education, technology and skills training they need to succeed.

When will I be able to vote on this measure?

The bond measure will appear on the November 6, 2018 ballot. All registered voters living within the Santa Ana Unified School District boundaries will be eligible to vote on this measure.

What level of support would the measure need to pass?

This measure would need to be supported by 55% of those who vote on it in order to pass.

How can I register to vote or learn more about voting?

You can register to vote at www.registertovote.ca.gov. To find out more about voting in this election, please contact the Orange County Registrar of Voters at (714) 567-7600 or visit www.ocvote.com.

How can I learn more about our schools?

We welcome your input as we work to ensure our schools are updated and students are provided with a quality education. For questions or comments, please contact the District at (714) 558-5501 or visit www.sausd.us/letstalk.

