



Santa Ana Unified School District

Frequently Asked Questions

How are Santa Ana Unified School District schools doing?

Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) strives for every student to graduate with the skills needed to succeed in college, future careers, or skilled trades.

What is the state of classrooms and school facilities in SAUSD?

Many local schools were built over 70 years ago and do not meet today's building or safety codes. Some schools have hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes, crumbling infrastructure, gas and water leaks, and sewage backups. Each day local students attend class in portable classrooms that are over 20 years old. Many have structural damage, are beyond their intended lifespan, and are expensive to keep repairing. These outdated classrooms, labs and learning technology need updates to meet current educational standards.

What is SAUSD doing to repair and upgrade aging and deteriorating schools?

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

How would repairs and upgrades to local schools be funded?

To complete needed repairs, SAUSD has placed Measure I, on the November 5, 2024 ballot (Board resolution may be viewed here: www.sausd.us/Page/54292). If approved by voters, this measure would provide \$355 million in locally controlled funding that can only be used for repairing and upgrading local schools.

What types of projects would Measure I fund?

If approved by local voters, Measure I would provide locally controlled funding to:

- Remove hazardous materials like asbestos, lead, and mold from older schools where encountered
- Provide modern labs, career technology facilities, and equipment so students are prepared for college and in-demand career fields
- Upgrade older schools so they meet current health and building safety codes, and provide proper access for students with disabilities
- Keep computer systems and instructional technology up to date
- Repair or replace deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and electrical



Will Measure I improve science labs and learning technology?

Yes. If we want we want our kids to succeed in college, future careers, or skilled trades, they must be skilled in the use of today's technologies and have advanced classes in science, math, engineering, and technology. Some of the science labs at our older schools haven't been upgraded in 30 years and need updates to meet today's academic standards.

Will Measure I improve student safety and school security?

Yes. This measure will remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead from local schools and improve fire and earthquake safety. It will also improve campus safety and security systems including security fencing, security cameras, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and sprinklers.

How can we be sure funds would be spent as promised?

Measure I would require strict fiscal accountability 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 are required.

Could the State take away funding from a local school repair bond measure?

No. By law, all funds raised must be used to repair SAUSD classrooms and school facilities only. No funds could be taken by the State or federal agencies.

Will this funding just be used to increase administrator salaries and benefits?

No. By law, none of the money raised from Measure I could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions.

Is there a broader, multi-year facilities improvement plan?

Yes, the District worked with architects and constructions experts to assess every school site and developed a comprehensive plan to repair and upgrade facilities. This plan provides a prioritized list of safety and improvement projects to bring SAUSD schools up to date. You can review this plan by visiting saUSDplan.org.

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

In 2018 local voters approved Measure I to fund repairs and upgrades at some schools. These projects were completed on time and on budget. It was always known that additional funding would be needed to complete projects at other schools. Now, in 2024 we have a new measure – also called Measure I – that will help ensure all students attend school in safe and modern classrooms.

How much would this bond measure cost?

This measure would cost \$28 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) annually and would cost the typical homeowner about \$96 per year.



I don't have children attending local schools. How would Measure I benefit me?

Even if you do not have school-age children, quality local schools help keep the community and property values strong.

Will Measure I benefit all students, whether or not they plan to go to college?

Yes, this measure will ensure that students who plan to go to college are prepared to succeed, and those who don't plan to go to college receive the career training and skills they need to compete for good paying jobs.

Will Measure I help SAUSD qualify for state matching funds?

Yes, if voters approve this measure, local schools will be eligible to receive as much as \$267 million in State matching money that otherwise will go elsewhere.

What is Prop 2 and why did the Board endorse it?

Prop 2 is on the ballot statewide to create a pool of funds available to local school districts to repair and upgrade local school facilities. Local school districts like SAUSD can only access these state matching funds if they have local matching funds from a local bond measure like Measure I. Measure I would provide the funds SAUSD needs to qualify for state matching money that will upgrade local schools at no additional cost to local taxpayers. Without Measure I, this state funding will go to improve schools in other communities. Prop 2 does not increase taxes. State bonds are repaid from state taxes we already pay.

What happens if Measure I does not pass?

Without Measure I, school facilities will continue to age while repairs will only become more expensive. In addition, without Measure I in place, SAUSD will miss out on up to \$267 million in State matching funds that will go to other districts instead.

How can I stay 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.