



Frequently Asked Questions

Santa Ana Unified School District Measure I

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.

How is the District planning to address these issues?

On July 16, the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Education placed Measure I, a \$232 million school improvement bond measure, on the November 6 ballot. Measure I would provide locally-controlled funding to repair and improve local schools.





What would Measure I provide for our students?

Measure I would:

- Provide the classrooms, laboratories, facilities and technology needed to support instruction in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM/STEM)
- Repair or replace deteriorating roofs, plumbing, gas and electrical systems
- Provide modern science labs, engineering labs and career technical education (CTE) facilities
- Upgrade older schools to meet safety standards
- Replace failing heating, air conditioning, 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 schools

How much would Measure I cost?

Measure I 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 from Measure I 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?

Measure I requires 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 from Measure I could be used for administrators' or teachers' salaries or benefits.

Are State matching funds available to SAUSD for facilities improvements?

Yes, however, in order for SAUSD to be eligible for State matching funds, the District would have to generate \$40 million in local funding. If approved, Measure I would make SAUSD eligible for \$62 million in matching funds from the State that would otherwise go to other school district.





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. Measure I would provide a local source of funding for school repairs.

Measure I 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 upgrade. Measure I would fund the next phase of improvements to local schools.

When will I be able to vote on Measure I?

Measure I 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 Measure I.

What level of support would Measure I need to pass?

Measure I 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 visit www.sausd.us/SchoolImprovementMeasure.

