

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How is Vista Unified School District doing?

Here at Vista Unified School District, we are committed to preparing our students to succeed in today's competitive economy. The District has created partnerships with Cal-State San Marcos, Palomar College and the San Diego Workforce Partnership to create better access to college and good-paying jobs for our students.

### 2. What challenges are facing our schools?

Many of our schools were built more than 50 years ago and need to be modernized to support a quality education. Our school facilities are deteriorating. Old fire alarms have caught fire, and kids have had to use porta-potties because school bathroom plumbing was no longer working. It's time to make essential repairs and improvements so our schools can serve our community well for decades to come. Moreover, the longer we wait to repair and upgrade our schools, the more expensive it will be.

### 3. How is the District planning to address these issues?

Academic standards are rising to ensure students have access to the education, technology and skills training they need to succeed. Thus, on May 31, the Vista Unified School District Board of Education voted to place a local funding measure on the November 2018 ballot. This measure would 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 they need to compete for good-paying jobs. Every penny would stay in our community and no funds could be taken away by the State.

### 4. Specifically, how would local school improvement funding be used?

The measure would:

- Provide classrooms, labs and equipment for career and technology education classes so students are prepared for college and in-demand jobs in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology and skilled trades
- Provide the facilities and technology needed to support high-quality instruction in math, science and technology
- Upgrade classrooms, libraries and science labs to keep pace with technology
- Repair or replace deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer lines and electrical systems
- Create flexible, multi-use classrooms to support hands-on science instruction and learning-by-doing
- Improve heating, ventilation, insulation, doors and windows to increase energy efficiency and save money

## **5. How do I know funds from a measure would be used responsibly?**

The measure would feature strict fiscal accountability provisions:

- Independent citizen oversight and annual audits would be required
- No money could be used for administrators' salaries
- All money raised by the measure would stay local to support our students and could not be taken away by the State or used for other purposes
- Our local schools would be eligible to receive at least \$21 million in state matching money when it becomes available. Money that otherwise would go to other school districts.

## **6. How would a bond measure contribute to a 21st-century education for Vista students?**

In Vista Unified School District, we know that a modern education is the key to our students' success in the 21st-century. 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 compete in the 21st-century. This measure would ensure local students have access to the education, technology and skills training they need to succeed.

## **7. How much would a local measure cost?**

A local bond measure could generate up to \$247 million, which would cost the typical homeowner about \$108 per year. All funds from a local measure would stay in our community and no funds could be taken away by the State.

## **8. Why is funding needed? Does the District operate on a lean budget?**

Vista Unified School District does operate on a lean budget. The District has already scaled back and, in fact, has among the lowest administrative overhead of any school district in the State. Although we have made great strides with what we have, our facilities needs exceed our current funding from the State and additional revenue is needed to provide local students with a safe, modern education. A local bond measure would generate the stable funds needed to do so and could qualify our district for additional state matching funds.

## **9. Is there any other way to update our schools?**

Vista Unified School District has very few options when it comes to making the necessary renovations and upgrades to our local schools. We can't rely on the State to complete these repairs. A local school facility improvement funding measure would provide the local control necessary to complete prioritized projects to provide a safe and modern learning environment for our students. In addition, our schools would qualify for \$21 million in state matching funds if the measure were to pass — funds that would otherwise go to other communities.

**10. Why are these repairs needed?**

The District has done its best to maintain its facilities with a limited budget and invests over \$3 million of general fund revenue each year to make essential improvements and safety upgrades. However, many schools and facilities are over 50 years old. This isn't a maintenance issue — facilities are old and outdated and need to be replaced, and we can't rely on the State to provide the funding. Since 2012-13, the District has invested over \$22 million in improvements and safety upgrades.

**11. How can I find out more?**

For questions or comments, please contact Dr. Linda Kimble at (760) 726-2170 ext. 92002 or [BuildGreatSchools@vistausd.org](mailto:BuildGreatSchools@vistausd.org).