



Orange Unified School District

1401 North Handy Street

Orange, CA 92867

www.OrangeUSD.org

Provided as a public service for your information only. Partial funding provided by Orange Education Foundation. March 2016.

Q&A: Orange Unified School District Facilities Needs Assessment Process

What is this project all about?

Orange Unified School District (OUSD) is committed to providing a safe and positive setting for all students and staff in Orange, Anaheim Hills, Villa Park and portions of Santa Ana and Garden Grove. Over the past few years we have studied our school facilities with increased emphasis—because all children deserve to learn in safe, high-quality school facilities. We have committed ourselves to working collaboratively with our stakeholders to assess local school facility and technology needs. Our goal with this effort is to help make teaching and learning in our Orange Unified public schools as effective and successful as possible.

What are the District's most critical needs?

- ▶ **Repair or replace** leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing, and outdated electrical systems where needed.
- ▶ **Provide classrooms and labs** for Career Technology Education classes so students are prepared for college and good paying jobs.
- ▶ **Improve access** to school facilities for students with injuries or disabilities.
- ▶ **Improve student safety** and campus security systems, including security lighting, fencing and video cameras, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and fire sprinklers.
- ▶ **Provide modern science labs** so that local schools can improve learning in key subjects of math, science and technology.
- ▶ **Replace deteriorated, decades-old portables** long past their useful life with new classroom buildings.

Why now?

District facilities staff work hard to maintain our neighborhood schools and keep them in good working condition with limited resources. However, the types of upgrades that the District's current needs assessment has identified go far beyond the scope and means of regular school maintenance budgets. Many of our schools are 40 to 60 years old and have NEVER been renovated. An ongoing investment in infrastructure is critical to help ensure safety and academic success for every child attending our schools.

Will this effort improve instruction?

YES. Our local schools strive for teaching and learning excellence in every educational setting. Our goal is to provide all students with access to the education they will need to be successful in college, jobs and careers after they graduate from high school. Safe, modern school facilities and education technology are essential to maintaining quality schools and giving our students a competitive edge. As school facilities are improved, teachers and students will benefit.

What happened with the 2014 School Bond proposal?

Unfortunately, the 2014 school bond proposal fell just under 200 votes short of passage. Over the past two years, we have made school facilities assessment a priority at OUSD. We've worked hard to foster an open, transparent, consensus-building process to ensure quality school facilities for the future. Over 1,600 stakeholders have provided input so far, while maintenance and operations staff have assessed facilities needs site by site. We are now focused on those facilities improvements most essential to student safety, protecting your investment in local schools and enabling student success including college admissions and attaining good paying jobs.

What about funding?

Our school district makes every effort to use resources wisely. But with limited help from the State and no renovations to key campuses for 40 to 60 years, the burden is growing to adequately repair and upgrade our school facilities. We need to work together to protect the local quality of education. To that end, OUSD is exploring all options, leveraging available maintenance and energy efficiency funds, to ensure quality school facilities for the future. As part of this process we are also exploring the feasibility of seeking community support for a local school bond.

What about ongoing school maintenance? Don't you have a facilities budget?

OUSD maintenance and operations staff work hard to keep local schools safe and in adequate working condition with limited resources. Historically, the District has kept pace completing needed fire safety and critical time-sensitive facility repairs. However, and particularly in the areas of school safety and security, and so that all students receive the high quality of education, the current scope of upgrades needed in OUSD far exceeds our State-allocated budget for meeting such needs.

What about the Lottery or State Prop 30? Weren't they supposed to fix our schools?

Unfortunately, the money OUSD receives from the Lottery each year comprises less than 2% of our annual General Fund Budget. We use these funds (about \$5M/year) to purchase textbooks and other instructional materials. Proposition 30 funds, approved by California voters in November 2012, restored earlier classroom cuts—but didn't provide any "new" funding for schools or school

facilities. Neither Lottery nor Prop 30 funds can provide the funding solution that our local schools need for repairs, upgrades and modernization.

I do not have children in OUSD schools. Why should I pay attention to this process?

Good schools are the foundation of any healthy, thriving community. Good schools protect property values and provide quality employees for local business. Whether or not you have school-age children, protecting the quality of our schools, the quality of life in our community, and the value of our homes is a wise investment.

Have there been OUSD school bonds before?

NO. Our 2014 school bond proposal fell fewer than 200 votes short of passage, so provided no funding for our schools. Unlike 90% of school districts in Orange County, Orange Unified has had NO general obligation school facilities bonds available, issued or outstanding.

To protect student safety, repair outdated electrical systems, faulty roofs and plumbing, provide classrooms and labs for career and technology education classes to prepare students for college and good paying jobs, improve access to facilities for disabled students, provide modern science labs, and update instructional technology in the classroom for improved student learning, we must explore all options to maintain the community's investment in our local schools.

Where can I go for more information?

For more information, visit: www.OrangeUSD.org
If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Superintendent Michael Christensen at: opinions@orangeusd.org or (714) 628-4482.



Orange Unified School District

Serving the communities of
ORANGE
ANAHEIM HILLS
VILLA PARK
and portions of
SANTA ANA
GARDEN GROVE
and UNINCORPORATED
CANYON AREAS
OF ORANGE COUNTY

SURVEY INSIDE

*Your opinion
is important to us.*



Educational Facilities UPDATE

PARENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS: PLEASE READ. *Maintaining quality schools is a wise investment.*



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March 7, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Today's high school graduates must prepare to compete worldwide in a highly technical workforce and challenging economy. Our job at Orange Unified School District (OUSD) is to ensure that our students succeed—whether pursuing college or landing a good paying job directly after high school graduation.

Our challenge is this: Although well maintained, many of our Orange Unified school sites are 40 to 60 years old and have NEVER been renovated. We need to update our schools, technology and equipment if we expect OUSD students to have the same opportunities as others to succeed.

Our 2014 school bond proposal narrowly lost, falling less than 200 votes short of the threshold to pass. While disappointing, we took this as an opportunity to reach out and listen even more carefully to OUSD voters in an effort to develop a proposal that our community can support.

As we continue to assess our most critical needs, we are striving to achieve an open, transparent, consensus-building process to ensure quality schools for the future.

I want to hear from you as we continue our planning process. Simply complete and return the attached response card or visit our website to express your views. **Please respond by March 31, 2016.**

There's a lot at stake. Academic standards are rising. OUSD students need (and deserve) a competitive edge as they prepare for college and career success. **Providing safe, modern school facilities will help.**

Thank you in advance for sharing your views. Your opinions are important to us.

Sincerely,

Michael Christensen

Michael Christensen, MBA
Superintendent, Orange Unified School District

OUR GOALS

To maintain the quality of education in the Orange Unified School District and ensure all students have access to safe, modern school facilities.



▲ Provide facilities that prepare all OUSD students for college and career success.



▲ Modernize science labs to improve student achievement in science and technology.



▲ Upgrade safety and security; add cameras and safety equipment; remove hazards.



▲ Update Career-Tech classrooms. Keep pace with advancing technology.



▲ Replace aging portables that are crowding school sites with permanent classrooms.



▲ Repair / replace leaky roofs, old rusty plumbing, outdated electrical systems.

Learn more at: www.OrangeUSD.org or call: (714) 628-4482

La version en español de este folleto y de la encuesta los puede encontrar en línea: www.orangeusd.org/facilities/survey

SURVEY

*Your
opinion
matters!*

Fill out this survey online at: www.orangeusd.org/facilities/survey

Please rank the importance of these school facilities priorities:

| | HIGH | MED | LOW |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▶ REPLACE aging roofs, windows, plumbing, heating, lighting, and electrical systems with more efficient systems. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▶ IMPROVE school safety—including campus fencing, video cameras, fire-safety and security alarms. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▶ MODERNIZE aging classrooms, science labs and technology infrastructure to keep pace with 21st century teaching and learning. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▶ UPGRADE classrooms and training facilities for vocational and Career Technology Education (CTE). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▶ IMPROVE access to school facilities for students with disabilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▶ UPDATE instructional technology to improve learning in core subjects like math, science and technology. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▶ REPLACE deteriorated, decades-old portables that are long past their useful life with new classroom buildings. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▶ OTHER: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

SCHOOLS MY CHILDREN
ATTEND/ATTENDED

SCHOOL FACILITIES I USE THAT
ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC
