

Garden Grove Unified School District School Facilities Update and Frequently Asked Questions

How is Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) performing?

Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) is committed to preparing its nearly 46,000 students to be successful and responsible citizens who contribute and thrive in a diverse society. To ensure student success, we provide a rigorous and supportive academic experience that motivates **all learners** to meet high expectations. Winner of the Broad Prize for Excellence in Education, we are a leader across the nation in college and career readiness. Students' academic successes begin early in GGUSD; in statewide exams, our students performed significantly higher than the state average—in fact, GGUSD had the highest test scores over ten years of any large urban district in the state on standardized tests. Students leave GGUSD prepared for bright futures: a greater percentage of GGUSD students meet rigorous college entrance requirements than other districts in the state or county and GGUSD also beats the county and state graduation rate. With all our successes, however, we know that academics is just one element of a successful education, and we work to nurture the whole child. Our Strategic Plan survey revealed that 90% of students and staff agree that GGUSD adults have high expectations and foster a supportive school environment and 95% expressed pride in the school district. The key to our success is treating all students as if they were our own children and providing them all the academic and personal skills for lifelong success.

What programs does GGUSD offer to help all students succeed?

Teachers and staff at GGUSD's 67 elementary, intermediate and high schools prepare students for lifelong success in 21st-century careers. The district offers preschool and full-day transitional kindergarten and full-day kindergarten to ensure early learners have a successful start to their education. GGUSD teachers equip students with the academic skills to achieve mastery of rigorous standards in reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

GGUSD has made a significant investment in instructional technology, providing wireless access and computers for regular use in the classroom. Students also benefit from regular physical education, as well as opportunities to participate in comprehensive athletic and visual and performing arts programs including courses in vocal and instrumental music, visual arts, dance and theatre.

Students with special needs receive a full continuum of educational services from preschool to age 22 with the district's adult transition program. Additionally, GGUSD offers a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program for elementary and secondary students to meet the academic and socio-emotional needs of high achieving students.

Students are offered added support outside of the regular school day. GGUSD schools enjoy partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs and United Way to offer after-school programs focused on closing the achievement gap and improving language development, literacy and math skills. Each GGUSD intermediate and high school offers a comprehensive AVID program to help equip students with scholarly habits and prepare students for college level work. At the high school level, GGUSD offers a variety of Advanced Placement courses to give students a head start when they begin college. To give our graduates the skills they need for highly-paid jobs, we offer career technical education programs in engineering, design, technology and other subjects.

What challenges are our schools facing?

While our students excel, our aging schools require critical repairs and upgrades. Heating and cooling infrastructure upgrades, including installing air conditioning, are needed at many of our older schools. Approximately half of GGUSD classrooms do not have air conditioning and classroom temperatures frequently reach over 90 degrees during periods of excessively hot weather. The district's stadiums and athletic facilities, which were built in 1958-1959 and have never been upgraded, are in need of improvements. School buildings must be upgraded to meet current seismic safety standards, and outdated roofs and electrical systems need to be replaced at many of our older schools. In order to prepare students for college success and good jobs in competitive fields like health sciences, engineering and technology, classrooms, science labs and instructional technology need to be updated to support 21st-century instruction and career and technology education classes.

What is the Measure to Improve School Safety and Learning Environments for a 21st-Century Education (Measure P)?

In order to meet the identified facilities needs, the GGUSD Board of Education placed the Measure to Improve School Safety and Learning Environments for a 21st-Century Education (Measure P), a \$311 million local school bond measure, on the November 8, 2016 ballot. If approved by local voters, Measure P would:

- Upgrade heating and cooling infrastructure and install air conditioning
- Update building electrical systems
- Make seismic safety improvements
- Replace roofs
- Renovate athletic stadium and make other athletic facilities improvements — the district's stadiums and athletic facilities were built in 1958-1959 and have never been upgraded
- Update classrooms, science labs and computer systems to support 21st-century instruction that prepares students for college and career success in competitive fields like science, engineering and technology

How would funds from Measure P be controlled?

Measure P includes strict fiscal accountability protections:

- Every penny would benefit local schools and be controlled by the GGUSD Board of Education
- None of the funds could be taken away by the state or go to schools in other communities
- By law, no money could be used for administrator salaries
- Independent citizens' oversight and annual audits would be required to ensure funds are spent as promised

How much would Measure P cost?

The annual property tax is estimated to be \$34 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) property value, or approximately \$8 per month for the typical homeowner. Assessed values are based on the original purchase price of a home and are typically much lower than the current market value of a property.

Can the state fund upgrades to our schools?

Unfortunately, we cannot rely on the state to provide adequate funding for facility improvements. However, if the statewide school bond proposed for the November ballot is approved by voters, GGUSD could use funds from Measure P to qualify for state matching funds. This would allow GGUSD to make additional improvements to local schools without increasing the cost to local taxpayers.

Would Measure P help our district qualify for state matching funds?

Very limited state funding is currently available for school improvements. However, if the statewide school bond proposed for the November ballot is approved by voters, GGUSD could use funds from Measure P to qualify for state matching funds. This would allow GGUSD to make additional improvements to local schools without increasing the cost to local taxpayers.

When will Measure P appear on the ballot?

Measure P will be on the November 8, 2016 ballot. Voters who vote by mail will receive their ballots the week of October 10, 2016.

How many votes are required for Measure P to pass?

To pass, Measure P must be supported by 55% of voters who vote on it.

Who is eligible to vote on Measure P?

All registered voters residing in GGUSD can vote on Measure P.

How can I find out more about Measure P?

For questions or comments, please email GGUSDBoard@ggusd.us or call (714) 663-6000.

How can I register to vote or find out more about voting?

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