



Garden Grove  
Unified School District

# PRESS RELEASE

From the  
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**Release Date:** Immediate

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**GGUSD Board of Education Authorizes Bond  
Measure on June 8, 2010, Ballot for School Renovations**

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**3-11-10**

Faced with a critical need to modernize aging school facilities – most of which are more than a half-century old – the Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) Board of Education on Wednesday, March 10, agreed 5-0 to ask voters to consider a \$250 million general obligation bond for large-scale school renovations. The Board’s unanimous action, represented by the adoption of formal resolution, authorized the bond measure for placement on the June 8, 2010, statewide primary election ballot.

If approved by 55 percent or more of district voters, the GGUSD would qualify for as much as \$200 million in matching state school bond monies for improvements, repairs, and upgrades to existing school buildings within Orange County’s third-largest school district serving more than 50,000 students in 69 schools.

The district currently has no bonded indebtedness.

“We need to address the issue of our aging schools,” said Superintendent Laura Schwalm. “By the end of the current school year, more than 50 percent of district schools will be in excess of 50 years old. We have steadfastly maintained our schools; however, they now need more than routine maintenance to provide our children with the safe, modern schools they deserve. We must make the necessary investments to bring our very old buildings up to current standards.”

The school board’s vote comes after months of planning and analysis that included the most comprehensive facilities study ever undertaken by the school district. As identified in the updated needs assessment, proceeds from the bond – with matching funds from the state – may be used for retrofitting schools for better accessibility for the disabled; repairing restrooms; renovating electrical circuitry, plumbing, lighting, roofing, intercom, and fire safety systems; improving energy efficiency; replacing doors, windows, and outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; updating or replacing elementary school playground equipment; and upgrading telecommunications systems to accommodate current technology.

(more)

At a February 16 study session, the school board was presented with results from a community telephone survey conducted earlier last month at no cost to the district. Survey results indicated that 74 percent of respondents agreed there was some need or a great need to repair, upgrade, and construct GGUSD school buildings. Sixty-five percent also supported a general obligation bond to finance the necessary improvements.

“The survey findings clearly demonstrate that our community takes pride in not only the quality of education our students receive but confirms their interest in modernizing our facilities,” said Board of Education President Bob Harden. “By taking this action, the Board of Education is giving voters the opportunity to decide whether to use bond financing to protect the taxpayers’ long-term investment in district assets by making the necessary renovations to our buildings’ infrastructure.

“Independent financial audits have consistently validated the district’s reputation for its conscientious use of taxpayer dollars and conservative spending practices,” President Harden went on to say. “We will continue to exercise wise decision making and embrace the prudent use of resources should the bond measure receive the support of district voters.”

For the most part, money for the construction and repair of school facilities is separate from the funding for day-to-day operations. Education appropriations from the state are an inadequate source for supporting large-scale capital projects that are traditionally financed through bond measures authorized by voters.

By law, bond revenue may only be directed for school facility improvements such as repair and modernization projects, new construction, land acquisition, and furniture and equipment. To ensure fiscal accountability for taxpayer protection, the funds are subject to oversight by a citizens’ committee and annual independent audit.

The Board of Education [resolution](#) calling for the election is available online at [ggusd.us](http://ggusd.us) and from the district’s Office of Business Services at (714) 663-6446.

*The Garden Grove Unified School District serves most of Garden Grove and portions of Santa Ana, Westminster, Fountain Valley, Cypress, Stanton, and Anaheim.*