

Lake Elsinore Unified School District

Frequently Asked Questions

How are Lake Elsinore Unified School District (LEUSD) schools doing?

LEUSD has provided our community with outstanding education since the 1880's. We are proud to have a reputation for strong student achievement, with multiple California Distinguished Schools, Blue Ribbon Schools and other renowned schools in our district. Great schools improve the quality of life in our community and protect the value of our homes.

What challenges are facing our schools?

If we want our local students to succeed in high school, college, and careers, they must be skilled in the use of today's technologies and have a solid background in science, math, and technology. Current facilities are inadequate to our students' ability to build those skills. Upgrades are needed if we want our students to have the same educational opportunities as others in the region. In addition, growing enrollment has resulted in the need for additional schools to relieve existing overcrowding, and essential fire and earthquake safety upgrades are needed in older schools.

How does the District plan to address these needs?

To maintain modern schools and promote a high-quality education, the Lake Elsinore School District Board of Trustees is considering placing a bond measure on the November 2016 ballot.

What would the potential measure fund?

- Upgrade local schools to support high quality instruction in math and science
- Upgrade classrooms and computers to keep pace with technology
- Upgrade schools to support career and technology education to prepare students for college and high-demand jobs in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology, and skilled trades
- Improve student safety and security, including fencing, cameras, emergency communications, and fire/earthquake safety systems
- Provide facilities and equipment to support high quality instruction in music and the arts
- Upgrade old playgrounds and fields to meet current health and safety standards
- Improve heating, ventilation, insulation, doors, and windows to increase energy efficiency and save money
- Add new classrooms and facilities to reduce and prevent overcrowding

Can the State fund upgrades to our schools?

We unfortunately cannot rely on the State to provide adequate funding for facility repairs and improvements. Local funding through a school bond measure will allow the District to construct new classrooms and make necessary repairs and improvements and help maintain strong student achievement.

Would all funds benefit LEUSD schools and remain local?

Yes. All money raised by a measure would stay local to support our students and could not be taken away by the State.

How do I know that the local funds would be spent as promised?

The measure will require a clear system of accountability, including a Citizens' Oversight Committee and independent audits to ensure all funds are spent properly. All money raised by a measure would stay local to support our students and could not be taken away by the State.

How is the independent Citizens' Oversight Committee formed, and who selects the members?

By law, a Citizens' Oversight Committee must be formed within 60 days after the Board enters the election results into Board minutes. It must be made up of a minimum of seven volunteer members who serve a term of two years each. Composition of the committee must include representatives from the business community, a senior organization, a taxpayer organization, a PTA member as well as a parent with children in the District. In addition, no employee, vendor or contractor of the District can be a member of the committee.

Would this potential measure help our district qualify for state matching funds?

While there are currently no existing matching funds, this measure would make LEUSD eligible for these state dollars once they do become available. The state matching funds would provide additional money to help further improve and repair our local schools.

Is there any other way to upgrade and improve our schools?

LEUSD has very few options when it comes to making the necessary repairs and upgrades to our local schools. We can't rely on the State to complete these repairs. A local school bond measure would provide the local control necessary to complete the prioritized projects to provide a safe and modern learning environment for our students. In addition, a potential measure would allow LEUSD to qualify for state matching funds—funds that would not be available otherwise.

When would a potential measure appear on the ballot?

Though no final decisions have been made, the Lake Elsinore Unified School District Board of Trustees is considering placing this measure on the November 2016 ballot. To pass, a potential measure would have to be supported by 55% of those who vote. All registered voters in LEUSD would be eligible to vote on the potential measure.

What if I have more questions?

Please contact the office of Superintendent Dr. Doug Kimberly at info@leusd.k12.ca.us.