

Bonita Unified School District Potential Bond Measure FAQ

How are Bonita Unified School District schools doing?

Bonita Unified School District (BUSD) is a top-performing K–12 district with state and national recognition for academic achievement and early literacy, preparing students for success in college, careers, and beyond.

What challenges do our Bonita Unified School District schools face?

Most of our local schools were built 55 years ago, with some 80 to 125 years ago, and need upgrades. Our aging neighborhood schools need repairs for leaking roofs, deteriorating 40-year-old HVAC systems, gas and sewer lines, removal of asbestos and lead paint, and upgrades to fire prevention systems. Classrooms and science labs need to be updated to meet current student safety and educational standards. Providing safe and updated classrooms help retain and attract quality teachers for our neighborhood schools.

How does Bonita Unified School District plan to address these challenges?

The BUSD Board of Education is exploring all potential revenue options, including placing a local school improvement bond measure on the ballot in June 2026. The potential bond measure would cost property owners \$59 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) value annually, for as long as bonds are outstanding, generating \$256 million to update our aging neighborhood schools, keep students safe and maintain a quality education for all students.

How would a potential bond measure update aging classrooms and schools?

If placed on the ballot by the Board of Education and approved by local voters, the bond measure could provide up to \$256 million in locally controlled school funding to:

- Remove hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead paint where found
- Update science labs/classrooms/equipment to help prepare students for in-demand careers in health sciences, technology, and engineering
- Upgrade school security and fire safety systems, including fire alarms and smoke detectors
- Repair and upgrade leaky roofs, gas & sewer lines, and deteriorating electrical systems/wiring
- And more

How do we know funds from a potential bond measure would be spent wisely?

By law, any bond measure would have fiscal accountability protections required by Proposition 39, including:

- All funds remain under local control for BUSD schools, and could not be taken by the County, State, or Federal government
- No funds can be used for any salaries or pensions, including administrators'
- Citizens' oversight committee, independent audits, and annual public reports of all spending to ensure funds are spent as promised

Could bond measure funding be taken by the County, State or Federal government?

No funds could be taken by the County, State or Federal government, or used for other purposes. All funds from the potential bond measure would benefit BUSD schools only.

Is there any other way to maintain and update BUSD classrooms, buildings, and facilities?

The District has very few options when it comes to funding the necessary repairs and updates that our schools need. The State does not provide funding for school facility updates without local matching funds. Redirecting funds in the current budget would take resources out of our classrooms and away from our students. A potential school improvement bond measure could provide the funding needed to fix and improve school facilities to ensure we can continue to provide safe and high-quality education for all local students. Passing a school improvement bond would also allow the District to qualify for tens of millions in state matching funds that would otherwise go to other school districts.

Which local schools would benefit from funding from a potential bond measure?

A facilities improvement bond measure would provide funding to complete repairs and updates at all school sites in the Bonita Unified School District, based on urgency of need.

What is the difference between assessed value and market value?

The cost of bond measures is based on the assessed value of properties. The assessed value of a property is based on the original purchase price and may not increase by more than 2% a year, while the market value tends to grow at a much faster rate based on market conditions. Thus, the assessed value is usually lower than the market value, especially if a property was purchased long ago at a much lower price than it could be purchased for today. It is this lower assessed value upon which the cost of a bond measure is based.

I don't have children attending local schools, how would this impact me?

Even if you do not have school-age children, funding quality education can help improve the quality of life in the community and protect the property value of our homes.

Didn't we pass a bond measure to fund our schools?

In 2008, voters in the Bonita Unified School District passed Measure AB which authorized a \$83.5 million bond. This means that for nearly 20 years there has been no dedicated local source of school improvement funding. A potential bond measure would bring back local funding and alleviate pressure off District funds.

Has BUSD used funds from previous measures responsibly?

Yes. The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee has found that BUSD completed bond projects on time and aligned with voter-approved priorities. The oversight committee reports can be viewed at: do.bonita.k12.ca.us/District/Business-Services/Bond-Oversight-Committee/BOC-Documents/index.html

What level of support is required to pass a bond measure?

At least 55% of those voters who cast a ballot on the measure must vote “Yes” in order for it to be approved.

Who is eligible to vote on a potential bond measure?

All registered voters in the Bonita Unified School District would be eligible to vote on the bond measure.

What if I have more questions?

The District values questions, comments, and feedback from parents and community members. Please fill out our online form: <https://forms.gle/X5fZyGcKUm78Kcf47>