

Eureka Union School District

School Facilities Planning – Frequently Asked Questions

How are schools in Eureka Union School District doing?

The Eureka Union School District (EUSD) serves approximately 3,500 students in TK/Kindergarten through eighth grade and strives to provide students with a high-quality education, preparing them for high school and beyond. EUSD is a destination school district for families seeking safe, community-oriented schools where standards of excellence provide the foundation for student success. Our schools have a tradition of outstanding instruction and student performance, leading-edge innovation and technology, and tremendous community support.

We're proud of the exemplary education programs provided to students in EUSD elementary and junior high schools. Earlier this year, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction selected Maidu Elementary School for the prestigious 2025 California Distinguished Schools Program, one of only seven schools in Placer County to receive this honor.

What is the current state of our classrooms, labs, and school facilities?

We are proud of the high quality of education in EUSD, but our schools are aging and need repairs and updates. Local EUSD elementary and junior high schools are over 25 years old, with two of our eight schools being more than 45 years old. Schools built decades ago were designed for a different era of education and to outdated safety and instructional standards.

Outdated classrooms and facilities are costly to maintain and inefficient to operate. Anticipated improvements to our aging facilities include replacing moldy, deteriorating carpets in classrooms, repairing leaky plumbing and roofs, faulty electrical wiring, and upgrading old and failing school HVAC systems to ensure reliable heating and cooling throughout the year. In addition, our schools need updated fire alarms, security, and communications systems to bring schools up to modern safety and security standards.

Are EUSD schools well-maintained?

Our District maintenance team works hard to take care of our aging classrooms and school facilities by keeping up with necessary repairs and maintenance. Unfortunately, significant upgrades and capital improvements needed at our aging schools are beyond what can be accomplished by our maintenance team and funded by our regular maintenance budget.

What are the options for repairing and upgrading aging local school facilities?

The facility improvements needed in our neighborhood schools are far beyond the scope of EUSD's current maintenance budget. District leaders are currently evaluating options for funding these improvements, including utilizing capital reserves in the EUSD budget and accessing state funds, which require matching funds usually provided by a local school improvement bond measure.

Many California school districts ask local voters to approve a school improvement bond measure to provide dedicated local funding for repairs and upgrades. Funding from a potential bond measure must be used to repair and improve EUSD schools and cannot be taken away by the state or used for other purposes. A bond measure would require a detailed project list showing how funds would be used, and an independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits to ensure funds are used as promised.

Does the State provide funding for school improvements?

No, the State does not provide dedicated funding for school facility improvements. What limited State funding for facility upgrades that exists requires local matching funds, usually provided by a local school improvement measure.

Has EUSD already passed a school improvement bond measure?

The last bond measures to improve EUSD schools were passed in 1986 and 1993, over 30 years ago. Funds from these bond measures were used to build Oakhills Elementary School, Ridgeview Elementary School, Maidu Elementary School, and Olympus Junior High School. All of these prior bonds were fully paid off in June 2024. Over the last twenty years, many neighboring school districts have passed several bond measures to improve their local schools.

What are the next steps?

The district has created a Facilities Finance Committee comprised of parents, teachers and staff, and members of the community, the EUSD Governing Board, and EUSD administration to focus on planning efforts for EUSD schools and facilities. The committee is working with a local school architect to update its Facilities Master Plan and prioritize and plan improvements to provide students with the safe and modern learning environment they need to be successful students and prepared for high school and beyond. Over the next six months, every EUSD school site will be carefully assessed to identify repairs and upgrades needed in our schools, and this information will be used to update our Facilities Master Plan.

How can I share my opinions or learn more?

As EUSD considers options for preparing our schools for the future, we welcome your input. Learn more by visiting our website at www.tinyurl.com/EurekaUSDfacilitiesplanning or contact Melissa Mercado, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services at EUSDfacilities@eurekausd.org to share your priorities or to ask questions.