



EDUCATING LEARNERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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Superintendent: John Puglisi, Ph.D.

More About Measure “G”

Why can't the District meet its facilities needs with its current budget?

Today, the scope of improvements needed at the Rio Elementary School District is far more than the current funding sources available. The per-pupil funding which the District receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating children and not for major upgrades, renovations, and modernization projects or new classrooms and facilities.

How did the District come up with the project list for Measure G?

Over the last year with input from staff, teachers, parents, community leaders, and an architect, the District has prepared a School Facilities Needs Analysis. The Needs Analysis identifies the major repairs and upgrades that need to be made. In addition, a community survey was conducted to obtain voter opinions on specific projects and to gauge support for a school improvement measure.

Specific types of projects identified include: Repairing or replacing leaky roofs, Improving student access to computers and modern technology, Making health, safety and handicapped accessibility improvements, Constructing new classrooms and facilities to reduce student overcrowding, Upgrading inadequate electrical and plumbing systems

Has the District ever passed a school improvement measure?

Yes, over 15 years ago the District passed a school improvement measure with 77.2% voter support. Funds from that measure were used to make renovations and repairs to schools throughout the District. Measure G would finish the work we started and bring our schools up to 21st century standards.

What will the passage of Measure G mean for our students and the community?

Measure G will provide our students with a better learning environment by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also used by and available to the community such as the libraries and playing fields.

What will Measure G cost?

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year. (Do not confuse assessed valuation with market value. Assessed valuations are the value placed on property by the County and are almost always lower than market values). Check your property tax statement for your current assessed valuation.

How can I be sure that Measure G funds will be spent on improving our local schools?

By law, all bond funds have to be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state. In addition, a local independent citizens' oversight committee will be established to ensure that bond funds are properly spent. Also by law, there must be annual audits of expenditures and no bond money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.



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MEASURE “G” for Rio Schools

The Rio Elementary School District has been providing dedicated and excellent educational services to local children since the formation of the District. Currently, the District educates an estimated 4,800 students at the District's eight schools. It is through the hard work and dedication of teachers, staff, and parents like you that directly contribute to the education and success of our children.

Although neighborhood schools have been well maintained over the years, outdated and overcrowded schools need to be addressed. Rio Plaza Elementary, our oldest, was first built in 1954, 60 years ago! Rio Real Elementary was built to accommodate 500 students, but today educates over 760. Faced with outdated and overcrowded classrooms and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the District and Board of Trustees unanimously decided to place Measure G, a school improvement general obligation (G.O.) bond measure, on the **November 4, 2014 ballot** to modernize and renovate our aging schools and to build new classrooms to reduce overcrowding.

Over the last several months with input from staff, teachers, parents, community leaders, and an architect, the District has prepared a School Facilities Needs Analysis. The Needs Analysis identifies the major repairs and upgrades that need to be made. Specific projects identified include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Improving student access to computers and modern technology
- Making health, safety and handicapped accessibility improvements
- Constructing new classrooms and facilities to reduce student overcrowding
- Upgrading inadequate electrical and plumbing systems

What is Measure G?

Measure G is a \$38.5 million general obligation (G.O.) bond program. The measure is intended to address the needs of the student population through new construction, modernization and renovation projects at the District's elementary and middle schools.

What is a G.O. bond?

G.O. bonds fund projects such as the renovation of classrooms and school facilities, as well as construction of new schools and classrooms. Similar to a home loan, G.O. bonds are typically repaid over 30 years. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property - residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial - located within the District's boundaries.

Why did the District place Measure G on the ballot?

Our schools are outdated and major upgrades and renovations need to be made. Although neighborhood schools have been well maintained over the years, outdated and overcrowded schools need to be addressed.

Rio Plaza Elementary, our oldest, was first built in 1954, 60 years ago! Rio Real Elementary was built to accommodate 500 students, but today educates over 760.

All our schools need major classroom and infrastructure improvements, and we must reduce student overcrowding.

A local school improvement measure would allow the District to improve the quality of the school facilities and education provided to local children.

SCHOOL BOND



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One to One Computing

This year we will take next steps to provide one internet connected computer device for every Rio student. Rio Lindo Elementary School will become our 1st One to One School as they tackle the challenge of being our 1st Inquiry Based Learning Model School.

In addition, we will continue to identify and allocate resources to achieve this goal until the job gets done. Our teaching staff is embracing new technologies and the abundance of student computing devices while taking the opportunity to transform learning towards 21st century models that make sense for learners as well as educators. We prefer to think of our goal as **one to the world** computing, connecting each child to people and knowledge.



New in Rio for 2014-15

The 2014-15 school year is here and there are a variety of new faces and programs to serve the children and families of the Rio School District. We welcome several new teachers and support staff to the Rio Team and we kicked off our annual opening professional development day on August 25th. They day went very well and we began our preparations and learning in order to provide world class learning opportunities for every Rio learner. This year we are celebrating two themes:

Life on the River & Leaders as Learners

In the past couple years we have made great strides towards becoming a world class learning organization and we are celebrating this growth and flow as the metaphoric river is alive and well and abundant all the while the actual river and water table is experiencing a severe drought along with the state of California. In addition, in our modern age, and with the advent of the common core standards we acknowledge that all Rio employees need to be leaders by example and leaders by action. Probably the most important action we can take collectively and as individuals, is to engage ourselves as learners. Thus, we are leading by learning and as always, here is so much to learn from and about our students and families as well as so much to learn about how to best serve each student.

We also have new faces on our leadership team that bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Rio School District administration. The folks include:

Dr. Ron Koenig, new principal of Rio Rosales Elementary School

Richard Mojarro, new principal of Rio Del Mar Elementary School

Greg Barnes, new After School Programs Coordinator

We welcome these three gentlemen and all our new employees. They have come to a great place to work, learn, lead, and live. I invite our parents and community members to get to know them and engage them in their new roles in our schools and community.



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ALL DAY KINDER IN 2014-15

This year beginning in late October, Rio kindergarteners will attend school for the full elementary school day.

Rio's kindergarten classes will be smaller. Last year they were 30 to 1 and this year they will be 24 to 1 student to teacher ratio.

Rio kindergarteners will have increased opportunities for physical education, play, the arts, and hands-on, minds-on investigations.

Rio's kindergarteners have the opportunity to receive more one on one assistance.

Thanks to the support of Rio's teachers and community, Rio kindergarteners will be provided with an improved foundation for school success in future years.



RIO KINDERGARTENS TO GO ALL DAY IN 2014-15

This year, Rio School District kindergarteners will begin attending school for the full academic day beginning in late October. This means they will have the same school day length as students in 1st through 3rd grades.

Q. Why Go All-Day Kindergarten?

Research shows that students in full day kindergarten get a stronger start in life. A full day of early learning can improve reading, writing, and math skills and provide a strong foundation for future learning. It also helps provide a smoother transition to Grade 1 for both students and parents.

In addition, all day kindergarten will provide students more time to socialize and play with peers which is an important element of school success for children. Research shows that there is a strong link between play and learning for children especially in the areas of problem solving, language and number skills, and social, physical, and emotional development. The extended day will provide more opportunities for children to think creatively, explore, investigate, solve problems, and share learning with others.

Q. What else will be new in Kindergarten?

A. Along with the kinder extended school day, students will enjoy smaller class sizes at **24 students to 1 teacher**. Students will also have increased opportunities for physical education, music, art and other hands-on learning experiences.

The National Education Association (NEA) recognizes that full-day kindergarten programs close achievement gaps between young children from minority and low-income families and their peers. By providing a solid foundation of learning to children from all backgrounds, full-day kindergarten programs ensure all students' academic, social, and emotional success.

<http://www.nea.org/home/11541.htm>
