



EDUCATING LEARNERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

MEASURE "G"

Frequently Asked Questions

The following information is provided to assist voters in understanding the facts behind Measure G:

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Our schools are outdated and major upgrades and renovations need to be made. Although neighborhood schools have been well maintained over the years, outdated and overcrowded schools need to be addressed.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

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.