

Supporting Students with 21st-Century Schools

In 1876, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) opened its first classroom to 52 students. Today, the District educates more than 10,000 students from preschool through high school.

One of the top-ranked districts in California, our high-achieving schools make Santa Monica and Malibu desirable communities to raise a family, which improve the quality of life and protect our property values. Although some local schools and classrooms have been modernized, many others have not, and there is more to do to support 21st-century learning and improve safety in all our neighborhood schools.

School Repairs and Upgrades Needed to Meet 21st-Century Education Standards

We still have many old schools, including our local high schools — some neighborhood schools are 70 years old. Facilities assessments have found older schools need repairs and upgrades to meet current academic and safety standards, as well as accommodate today's technology and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) instructional strategies.

Locally-Controlled Funding to Maintain High Quality Schools

In order to address these needs and provide maximum local control to Malibu and Santa Monica in determining the use of each community's funds, the Board is considering the creation of two School Facility Improvement Districts ("SFIDs") and potential separate bond measures for Santa Monica and Malibu. The formation of SFIDs would dedicate funds raised by the bond measures to schools within each respective community.

A Board decision on whether to move forward will be made this summer. The amount of the local bonds has yet to be determined. The Board is considering a rate of approximately \$40 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) value.

Passage of local funding measures would meet the District's urgent needs to repair and upgrade our older schools. Local bond measure funds would be used to:

- Add and modernize science labs and build classrooms for teaching career and technical skills to help students succeed in 21st-century jobs
- Improve and upgrade classrooms to support instruction in math, science and technology, and improve arts and music education
- Fix leaky roofs in older schools that are causing power outages and replace and repair aging school restrooms and plumbing, where needed
- Replace old, deteriorated portable classrooms with safe, modern classrooms
- Remove hazardous materials from local schools; Repair and replace deteriorating school floors, walls, windows and roofs



Strict Fiscal Accountability Provisions:

- All funds would be used for local schools in our community and, by law, could not be taken by the State
- Citizens' oversight committee and annual audits would be required