



March 28, 2023

SMMUSD Message: Campus Rain Issues Update

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students and Community Members,

The unprecedented rain we have experienced the last few months has caused challenges at schools, residences, and businesses across the southland. It has impacted all of us. Our aging SMMUSD buildings have failed to keep the water out of interior spaces at some of our facilities.

We take great pride in our ongoing efforts to maintain our facilities to ensure our students and staff are housed in safe, well-maintained, learning environments. As problems arose the past few months of rain, we have worked to repair and improve roofs and drainage as quickly as possible. We humbly acknowledge that we have not always met this challenge.

Our facility team has been working to clean up water quickly, determine the cause of the leaks, investigate potential environmental impacts, repair roofs, gutters, pipes and waterproof windows. The cause of water intrusion is investigated, then a restoration plan is initiated for repair areas that have been impacted. We are working to repair more than 110 specific leaks at this time.

We understand the concerns and distractions caused with these issues that we know have led some to worry about classroom air quality, mold, flooding and falling ceiling tiles. As soon as issues are reported, our team of maintenance and operations staff, along with some outside contractors, began to address the issues to determine what is required to fully remedy the problems.

We are all in this together and working to address issues as quickly as possible, while we continue to update our schools through bond-funded modernization projects, new construction and bungalow replacement.

Facility staff have worked with site administrators at impacted school sites to adjust, including moving students and staff to other learning spaces on campus, as needed, as repairs are made.

Steps we are taking to best protect the health and safety of our students and staff, while continuing to improve and modernize our facilities include:

- Roof repairs: Critical roof repairs are in progress or being scheduled. Some work will be done over spring break. In some cases, roof repair or full replacement will be scheduled for the summer break to minimize disruption during school
- Following roof repair, damaged ceiling tiles and other areas damaged by water intrusion will be repaired. This includes baseboard and exclusion work

- Bungalow maintenance and remediation will be done to any exterior damage
- Proactive bungalow interior and exterior inspections will be scheduled
- Ramp repair for bungalows: Our goal is to repair damaged ramps during spring break. The most critical ramps will be repaired first
- Air duct cleaning: Unrelated to the rains and potential biological growth, the air ducts in the portables need to be cleaned. This work will be scheduled for summer 2023. We will be placing air scrubbers in the rooms in the interim
- Clean out standing water and debris: Leaves and other debris that has accumulated between and under bungalows will be cleared

We know that everyone is anxious for repairs to be made as quickly as possible. The number of leaks due to the rainfall this year has stretched the resources of the division. The District has 576 roofs and nearly 1.4 million square feet of roofing in the district. Currently, 2% need replacement and 7.4% need repair and restoration. Nevertheless, staff and the Board of Education are committed to dedicating resources that are required to make the necessary improvements to our facilities, including dedicating approximately \$5.2 million dollars for repair work and roof replacements described above.

We strive to meet our goal of safe school environments throughout the district and have provided improvements, modernizations and plans for further improvement in the coming years at all of our schools. We appreciate your ongoing support and patience as our teams work through critical issues across the district as quickly as possible.

We close by thanking the many maintenance and operations employees who remain on-call and have worked overtime, including nights and weekends, responding to the many challenges we face. We are grateful for their commitment and service.

We will keep you posted on our progress.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark O. Kelly, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent

Carey Upton
Chief Operations Officer