



GREAT LOCAL SCHOOLS

AN UPDATE ON THE
2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



We are proud to serve our students at our 15 schools, many of which have been named among the best in California and the nation. **In fact, Santa Monica and Malibu High Schools rank in the top 6% of schools in the state and nation, according to U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best High Schools.** Our graduation rates and test scores continue to outperform averages in the county, state and nation.

- Graded A+ in Academics, Best Teachers and College Prep
- Awarded “Best Communities for Music Education Award” by the National Association of Music Merchants for the 22nd consecutive year
- 98% Santa Monica High School Graduation Rate

Sincerely,

Dr. Antonio Shelton

Dr. Antonio Shelton
Superintendent, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District



Maintaining High-Quality Education in Santa Monica Schools

Santa Monica schools have served the community well for decades, but many are now nearly 70 years old and need urgent repairs. Leaky roofs, aged electrical wiring and outdated plumbing must be fixed or replaced to ensure student safety.

Additionally, classrooms and labs need upgrades with new technology to meet modern educational standards and to help support struggling and at-risk students. Expansion of our new grade, transitional kindergarten (TK), requires modern classrooms. These improvements will better prepare students for college and in-demand careers, ensuring safe and effective learning environments.

Locally Controlled Funding for School Upgrades

SMMUSD is evaluating placing a \$495 million school facilities improvement bond measure for School Facilities Improvement District (SFID) #1 (Santa Monica Schools) on the November 2024 ballot. While no decisions have been made, the cost of the measure to each homeowner is currently projected to be approximately three cents per \$100, annually, of assessed (not market) value.



Funding from a potential measure could be used to:

- Fix leaky roofs and plumbing to prevent further damage and ensure safe learning environments for our students
- Remove mold and address water damage from leaks and old plumbing
- Modernize science labs, libraries and technology for college and career readiness, while continuing to support struggling and at-risk students
- Replace aging heating and cooling systems
- Upgrade computers and learning technology so they are up-to-date
- Improve safety and security systems, including fire alarms, sprinklers, locks and fencing and disabled student access

Mandatory Fiscal Accountability

A school facilities improvement bond measure must include strict fiscal accountability protections, including:

- ✓ A specified criteria for all projects that can be funded and a list of proposed projects planned for the measure
- ✓ A Citizens' Oversight Committee and independent audits to help ensure funds are spent as promised
- ✓ Public disclosure of all spending would be required
- ✓ No funds could be used for salaries or operating expenses
- ✓ All funds must remain under local control to support Santa Monica schools only
- ✓ No funds could be taken away by the State or used for other purposes

READ INSIDE

TO LEARN ABOUT A POTENTIAL 2024
SANTA MONICA SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND MEASURE

YOUR PRIORITIES FOR SANTA MONICA SCHOOLS

In May 2024, the District mailed you a survey asking for your priorities for Santa Monica schools. With hundreds of responses collected, here are some of the priorities you shared.

Repair aging school facilities, including leaky roofs, electrical systems and plumbing

92%

Upgrade aging heating and cooling systems to improve indoor air quality

86%

Modernize classrooms and labs to support high-quality instruction

84%

Improve safety and security systems, including fire alarms, sprinklers and fencing

83%

Replace deteriorating portable classrooms with safe, modern classrooms

82%

Update school libraries

75%

Percent of respondents marking items as high or medium priority. Responses received through June 24, 2024.