



Potential Bond Measure

Frequently Asked Questions

Who does La Mesa-Spring Valley School District serve?

La Mesa-Spring Valley School District (LMSVSD) provides quality education for more than 10,000 local students in preschool through eighth grade that prepares them for success in high school, college, and future careers. LMSVSD operates 21 schools serving the communities of La Mesa and Spring Valley. Local high schools are operated by the Grossmont Union High School District, which is a separate public agency.

What is the condition of local school facilities?

With most local schools built more than 60 years ago, LMSVSD is working to ensure all students learn in classrooms that meet current educational standards as well as fire, earthquake, security, and safety standards. A recent thorough assessment of each school facility has identified high-priority repairs and upgrades needed at many local schools.

What are examples of repairs and upgrades needed at local schools?

Some schools were built so long ago that underground clay and cast-iron pipes and infrastructure are failing, resulting in gas leaks, water leaks, and sewage backups. Last year alone, there were 95 roof leaks. Many school HVAC systems are more than 20 years old and nearing the end of their useful life. During warmer months, classrooms can exceed 90 degrees, requiring air conditioning and outdoor shade structures to protect student health and comfort. Electrical panels and wiring in many schools are 50 years old and cannot support full classrooms with computers or modern instructional technology.

What has LMSVSD done to address needed school repairs and upgrades?

In 2020, local voters approved Measure V, a \$136 million school improvement bond to address critical facility upgrades needed at schools across the District. Measure V has supported many improvements, including school security and student safety upgrades, new classroom buildings and kindergarten playgrounds, slope repairs, and turf projects at multiple schools.

Prior to Measure V, how long had it been since LMSVSD passed a bond measure to upgrade schools?

Prior to Measure V in 2020, LMSVSD had not passed a bond measure in nearly twenty years. During that time, daily use and age caused local schools to deteriorate. Now, LMSVSD is working to bring aging classrooms and school facilities up to current learning and safety standards.

Why hasn't Measure V funded improvements at local high schools?

Local high schools are administered by a different school district, the Grossmont Union High School District. Measure V was proposed by LMSVSD and, by law, can only be used to improve LMSVSD schools.

Do local schools still need additional upgrades?

While LMSVSD has accomplished a lot with Measure V, most schools are more than 60 years old and need additional repairs and upgrades to support student safety and learning. While Measure V is addressing the most urgent and high priority needs, it was always known that Measure V was just the first phase of upgrades for our aging schools.

How is LMSVSD planning to address the next phase of school repairs and upgrades?

To address priority school repairs and upgrades, LMSVSD has an opportunity to generate \$131 million in locally controlled funding by simply extending the current bond tax rate from the voter-approved 2002 bond. Later this year, the LMSVSD Governing Board will consider placing a measure on an upcoming ballot to fund local school repairs and upgrades by extending, but not increasing, the current \$22 per \$100,000 of assessed value tax rate.

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How can school improvements be funded without increasing tax rates?

A bond measure approved by voters in 2002 is set to expire soon. The school improvement bond extension under consideration would simply extend the tax rate previously approved by voters to fund additional school repairs and upgrades without increasing tax rates beyond the amount we currently pay.

Does the State provide funding for school repairs?

State and federal funding for school facilities is limited, unpredictable, and often requires local matching dollars. That's why local bond measures are needed to fund needed repairs and upgrades. LMSVSD has and will continue to leverage state matching funds available to help reduce the cost of school improvements to local taxpayers.

Would the proposed school improvement bond extension under consideration allow LMSVSD to qualify for state matching funds?

Yes. If voters approve a bond extension, it is anticipated that local schools will be eligible to receive up to \$61 million in state matching funds that otherwise would go to other school districts.

What specific projects and priorities would a bond extension fund?

While plans are still being finalized, funds from a bond extension would support priority repairs and upgrades such as repairing or replacing deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, and electrical systems; installing air conditioning and adding shade structures; repairing or replacing aging heating and ventilation units; and improving student safety and campus security systems like locks, emergency communications, cameras, alarms, and sprinklers. In addition, learning spaces like classrooms, labs, and multipurpose rooms would be upgraded to better support instruction in math, science, technology, music and art.

How can we be sure bond money is spent properly and transparently?

The measure would include a detailed project list showing how the funds must be spent. Independent audits and public reports on all spending are required by law. Plus, the District must establish and maintain an independent oversight committee to review all expenditures and ensure transparency. These accountability protections help ensure funds go to the projects promised to voters.

Can the state or federal government take this bond money away?

No. By law, bond proceeds approved by local voters are locally controlled and dedicated to projects within the District. The state and federal governments cannot take these locally approved funds for other purposes.

Has the District been accountable with past bond funding and where can I see reports?

Yes. Since Measure V was approved in 2020, the District has completed promised upgrades, earning an A rating from the taxpayers' association. The public may review audits, oversight committee reports, and project updates. Current information and documents are available at www.lmsvschools.org/bond.

When might a bond extension measure appear on the ballot and when will final decisions be made?

The District is currently developing the facilities plan and assessing funding options and would bring a final proposal to the Governing Board for approval before placing any bond extension on a future local ballot, which the District expects could occur in the upcoming November 2026 General Election. The Governing Board will consider placing the measure on the ballot this summer after finalizing the project list and financing plan this spring.

Where can I get more information, ask questions, or provide feedback?

For the latest information, updates, and upcoming public meetings, please visit www.lmsvschools.org/bond or contact **Daniel Young**, Executive Director, Facilities Planning & Construction, at (619) 668-5700 x4714 or daniel.young@lmsvschools.org.