

# Superintendent Report

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Denise Saddler  
January 28, 2026



**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

## Our Vision

All OUSD students will find joy in their academic experience while graduating with the skills to ensure they are caring, competent, fully-informed, critical thinkers who are prepared for college, career, and community success.

## Our Mission

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will build a Full Service Community District focused on high academic achievement while serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with excellent teachers, every day.



# Superintendent Report Overview



## School Highlights

**Strategic Plan Highlight: Joyful Schools (Initiative 3)**

# School Highlights

# McClymonds High Holds College Workshop For Students

On January 7, McClymonds High organized what was called the Journey to Excellence for students to come to the library to learn about college. They gained knowledge on such things as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, trade schools, campus social activities like homecoming, financial aid, and transferable skills such as financial literacy and networking.

More than 50 students came to the event, asked questions, learned about their potential futures, and even left with some college souvenirs.



**Initiative: Empowered Graduates**

[www.ousd.org/strategicplan](http://www.ousd.org/strategicplan)

# Longtime Think College Now Teacher Celebrated

Monica Purdy had a celebration in her honor at Think College Now as she is the longest serving teacher at the school. She has been at the Fruitvale District campus for the past 20 years, almost the entire time the 21 year old school has existed.

The celebration included lots of fellow staff, former principals, and Director Berry. We thank Ms. Purdy for her dedication to the students of TCN!



**Initiative: Diverse and Stable Staff**

[www.ousd.org/strategicplan](http://www.ousd.org/strategicplan)

# OUSD Educators Enjoy Educators Night at Warriors Game

Dozens of educators from across the District came together for Educators Night at Chase Center on Saturday, January 17.

Teachers, principals, executive assistants, other school staff, and members of our Senior Leadership Team, got to enjoy the game, and a celebration beforehand.

This annual event for Bay Area educators includes in game shout outs, and swag to take home. I thank the Golden State Foundation for treating all of us to a fun night and a big win.



**Initiative: Diverse and Stable Staff**

[www.ousd.org/strategicplan](http://www.ousd.org/strategicplan)



# Strategic Plan Highlight: Joyful Schools (Initiative 3)

# Initiative: Creating Joyful Schools

## Reimagining Schools to be Places of Joy, Inclusion, and Beauty



# Creating Joyful Schools: Our Four Areas of Focus

**Center and listen to youth and families:** Authentically engaging and involving youth as leaders in their education experience, building authentic relationships with families with two-way communication in primary languages, centering the experiences and voices of Black and Brown youth and families to define joy, beauty, and inclusion while building community consensus.

**Invest in restorative practices:** Ensuring restorative practices are truly integrated into the fabric of our schools, with monitoring of implementation.

**Practice culturally responsive and linguistically sustaining practices:** Creating welcoming practices and intentional work around bias and racism.

**Ensure inspiring learning environments:** Facilitating joyful learning spaces from home to school; designing classrooms, learning spaces, and opportunities that value joy and multiple ways of thinking and being; providing spaces for the community to gather and celebrate each other; and expanding outdoor spaces for youth.

# OUSD FACILITIES MISSION STATEMENT

OUSD Facilities **support whole student growth** and success by planning, constructing, and maintaining facilities that are flexible, resilient, healthy, safe, and joyful.

These **spaces maximize collaboration**, empower innovation, and inspire creativity, **preparing our students** to be college-, career, and community-ready.



# Why Facilities Matters to Joyful Schools

*Creating Joyful Schools requires transforming the physical environments where students learn, play, and gather every day.*

Facilities is advancing this initiative by:

- **Embedding joy, inclusion, and beauty** into districtwide planning, design standards, and project prioritization
- **Centering student and family voice** in the design of campuses, including classrooms, outdoor spaces, and shared areas
- **Investing in welcoming, healthy, and climate-ready environments** that support learning, wellness, and belonging



# Joy as a Districtwide Planning Standard

*Joyful Schools is now embedded in district facilities planning—not limited to individual projects.*

Facilities has integrated Joyful Schools principles into:

- The 2025 Facilities Master Plan
- Early project scoping and feasibility
- Design standards and decision-making across all projects

What this means in practice:

- Joy, beauty, and inclusion are considered alongside **safety, cost, and capacity**
- Equity drives **where and how investments are prioritized**
- These principles apply across the **full range of Facilities work**
  - *Major modernization and new construction projects*
  - *Living Schoolyards and outdoor learning spaces*
  - *Turf fields, gyms, and athletic facilities*
  - *Deferred maintenance, safety improvements, technology upgrades*
  - *Sustainability, energy efficiency, and climate resilience efforts*
  - *Kitchen, dining, and everyday campus improvements*



# What Joy Looks Like in School Facilities

*Joyful school environments are intentionally designed to support belonging, learning, and well-being.*

Across Facilities projects, Joyful Schools principles are reflected through:

- **Natural Light, Color & Warm Materials**  
*Welcoming interiors that support comfort, focus, and emotional well-being*
- **Flexible, Student-Centered Learning Spaces**  
*Spaces that support collaboration, creativity, and multiple learning styles*
- **Strong Indoor–Outdoor Connections**  
*Design that extends learning beyond the classroom and strengthens connection to nature*
- **Welcoming Campus Entries & Shared Community Spaces**  
*Campuses that feel open, safe, and inviting to students, families, and staff*
- **Visibility of Student Identity, Culture & Work**  
*Design elements that reflect community values and celebrate student voice*



*Bond Measures B, J, & Y New Multi-purpose, Cafeteria & Kitchen: Claremont MS, 2024*

# Joy in Action: Living Schoolyards

*Living Schoolyards are a cornerstone strategy for advancing Joyful Schools across OUSD.*

Through Living Schoolyards, Facilities partners with **students, families, and school communities** to create:

- **Nature-Based & Climate-Responsive Spaces**  
Trees, gardens, shade, and green infrastructure that support play, learning, and cooling
- **Play & Movement-Rich Environments**  
Inclusive play features that promote physical activity, creativity, and social connection
- **Outdoor Learning Spaces**  
Flexible outdoor classrooms that support hands-on, place-based learning
- **Community Gathering Areas**  
Welcoming spaces that strengthen relationships and shared stewardship



*Living Schoolyard Project: Madison Park Academy Lower, 2025*

# Living Schoolyards: Joy in Action



# Joy in Action: Turf Fields, Gyms & Athletics Spaces

*Facilities investments in athletic and shared-use spaces support joy, wellness, and community pride.*

- **Turf Field Replacement & Maintenance**  
Safe, durable, all-weather fields that expand access to play, athletics, and community use
- **Gyms & Athletic Facilities**  
Modernized gyms and support spaces that promote physical health, teamwork, and school spirit
- **Multi-Use Outdoor Spaces**  
Fields and courts designed for both instructional use and community gatherings
- **Equitable Access to Quality Facilities**  
Prioritizing upgrades at campuses with the greatest needs



Turf Replacement: Oakland High, 2026



Gymnasium Upgrades: Montera HS, 2025

# Turf Fields, Gyms & Athletics Spaces: Joy in Action



Oakland Tech HS



Madison Park Academy Upper



McClymonds HS



International Community School/Think College Now



Castlemont HS

# Student & Family Engagement in Master Plan and Project Design

*Joyful Schools depends on who shapes the space — not just what is built.*

## Facilities engagement includes:

- Student workshops and classroom-based input
- Family and caregiver planning & design sessions
- Community site walks and visual feedback tools
- Ongoing feedback during design and construction

## Why this matters:

- Builds trust and shared ownership
- Results in spaces students and families are proud of
- Reduces redesign and conflict later in projects



Students draw their ideal play areas during the Design phase

# Equity & the Everyday Experience of Joy

*Joy requires strong baseline conditions — not just major projects.*

**Facilities is aligning maintenance and capital work to:**

- Improve restrooms, drinking water access, lighting, and shade
- Address deferred maintenance with dignity and equity
- Prioritize campuses with the greatest condition needs



Deferred Maintenance Roof Replacement: Chabot ES, 2025



Deferred Maintenance Restroom Upgrades: Skyline HS, 2025

# Joyful Schools & Climate - Ready Campuses

*Facilities investments are improving student well-being while advancing climate resilience and sustainability.*

**West Oakland Middle School: Joy, Comfort & Sustainability in Action:**

- **Improved comfort, air quality, and natural light**  
High-performance windows and passive solar shading reduced glare and overheating while restoring views and ventilation.
- **Healthier, more joyful learning environments**  
Post-occupancy results show classrooms up to **17°F cooler**, near-zero glare, and improved thermal comfort for students and staff.
- **Beauty and pride as part of sustainability**  
A refreshed, colorful façade creates a more vibrant, welcoming campus that reflects student identity and community pride.



*Bond Measure Y Window Replacement Project: West Oakland MS, 2025*

# Joy in Everyday Moments: Kitchen & Dining Upgrades

*Joyful Schools include welcoming, dignified spaces where students gather, eat, and connect.*

- **Modernized Cafeterias & Serving Areas**  
Upgrades that improve flow, visibility, comfort, and student experience during meals
- **Kitchen Infrastructure Improvements**  
Reliable equipment, ventilation, and layouts that support fresh meal preparation and food safety
- **Welcoming & Inclusive Dining Spaces**  
Brighter, cleaner, and more inviting environments that encourage community and connection
- **Equitable Access to Quality Facilities**  
Prioritizing upgrades at campuses with the greatest needs



Cafeteria Upgrades: McClymonds HS, 2025

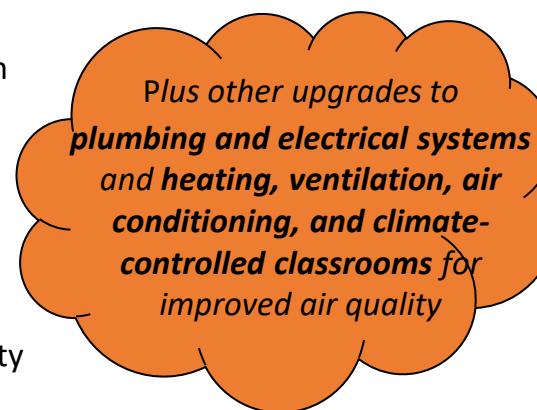


# Current Status DSA Backcheck Review

# Joyful Schools in Action: McClymonds High School

*The McClymonds HS Modernization and Turf Field Replacement Projects demonstrate how Joyful Schools principles are embedded in major facilities investments.*

- **Flexible, Student-Centered Learning Spaces**
  - **State-of-the-art renovated classrooms** for enhanced and flexible student learning opportunities
  - **Cutting-edge engineering labs** to provide students with modern technology and tools
  - **New furniture** and reconfigured layouts for better collaboration and a variety of teaching and learning styles
- **Strong Athletic Programming** to support our world-class football program
  - **New turf field, track, gym bleachers, and scoreboard**
  - Locker rooms, dance, and weight rooms
  - **Grandstand, concessions, restroom**
  - **Revitalized garden and Plaza of Peace**
- **Welcoming Campus Entries & Shared Community Spaces**
  - **Enhanced security systems** across campus to increase student safety
  - **Improved ADA accessibility**
- **Visibility of Student Identity, Culture & Work**



Plus other upgrades to **plumbing and electrical systems and heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and climate-controlled classrooms for improved air quality**



# McClymonds High School Measure Y MODERNIZATION

## January 2026 Project Update

We are building a NEW and IMPROVED McClymonds High School!

### ✓ Budget **\$92.75 Million** The LARGEST Measure Y project budget! (Additional \$3M was allocated for the Turf and Track Project)

### ✓ Project Features

- State-of-the-art renovated classrooms for enhanced and flexible student learning opportunities
- Cutting-edge engineering labs to provide students with modern technology and tools
- Enhanced security systems across campus to increase student safety
- Upgraded plumbing and electrical systems to create a more reliable campus experience and minimize maintenance disruptions
- New grandstand, scoreboard, concessions, and restroom to support our world-class football program
- New bleachers in the William "Bill" Felton Russell gymnasium to complete the renovations
- Upgraded heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and climate-controlled classrooms for improved air quality
- Revitalized garden and Plaza of Peace
- Modernized cafeteria, locker rooms, dance, and weight rooms
- New furniture and reconfigured layouts for better collaboration and a variety of teaching and learning styles
- Improved ADA accessibility...and more!

### ✓ Schedule and Milestones

- Design & State Approval: March 2026
- Groundbreaking: Spring 2026 (dependent on DSA and phased construction staging, in progress)
- Completion: March 2028

### ✓ School Contacts

- Principal (Mack Alum): Darielle Davis
- Assistant Principal: Angelina Gilyard-Shyne
- Community School Manager (Mack Alum): Brian McGhee



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## January 2026 Project Update

We are building a NEW and IMPROVED McClymonds High School!

### ✓ Project Information

- Project Manager: Nicole Wells
- Construction Manager: Elena Comrie
- Project Engineer: Chastity Henderson
- Community Outreach Partner: Harold Lowe
- Bridging Architect: Perkins Eastman
- Design Architect: HKIT Architects
- General Contractor: Alten Construction
- Website: [bit.ly/McClymondsProjectPage](http://bit.ly/McClymondsProjectPage)

### ✓ Modernization Project Updates

- The Division of the State Architect (DSA) provided review comments on McClymonds' modernization design in September 2025. The plans were submitted in two increments.
- The project architect addressed and submitted responses for the first increment in November 2025 and is currently addressing the second increment, with plans to resubmit in January 2026.



### ✓ School Kitchen Project Updates

- The full kitchen and serving line renovation, which was completed in summer 2025, included the installation of a new kitchen floor, serving lines, electric salad bars, combi ovens, tilt skillet, three-compartment sinks, and refrigerators.
- Upcoming projects include the installation of a new walk-in cooler, storage rooms, and electrical work.

### ✓ Turf Field Project Updates

**(Submitted for review to DSA)**

- The turf field design plan was submitted to the DSA in May 2025 for review. The DSA backcheck, which is the final step in the plan approval process, was submitted in July 2025. The DSA backcheck review is still underway.
- Soil testing occurred in July 2025. A Soil Management Plan (SMP) was produced based on the results of the soil testing and site investigation. The SMP will be submitted to the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) for its guidance in the soil removal phase.



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# Facilities Master Plan Alignment

*The Facilities Master Plan provides the roadmap for scaling Joyful Schools.*

## The Plan includes:

- Facility condition and education adequacy assessments
- Equity-based prioritization
- Clear decision-making frameworks
- Project recommendations aligned with student experience



*All City Council in action during a Facilities Master Plan Workshop*



# Community Schools, Thriving Students

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