



## Oakland Unified School District

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### <Update> On Our Measure Y Bond Dollars and How Inflation is Compromising Our Spending Power



#### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Monday, July 31, 2023

Dear Oakland Unified Community,

We write to you today to share an update on the implementation of Measure Y, the \$735 million bond measure passed by Oakland voters overwhelmingly in 2020. The Measure allows the District to fund much-needed improvements to numerous school campuses and make a significant dent in OUSD's \$3.4 billion in facilities needs identified in the [2020 Facilities Master Plan](#). The improvements include important upgrades and

strategic investments in student safety, technology, playgrounds, and solar power installations. The biggest ticket items are major school campus improvements. Collectively, they will provide generations of Oakland students outstanding learning environments.

While there have been a number of notable successes under Measure Y such as the new Castlemont High School athletic field, the Claremont Middle School multi-purpose room, and the District's Central Office, we have recently faced some challenges. As we have all experienced in one way or another, inflation has played a major role in our world since the pandemic began, and the cost of construction has not been immune to the impacts of inflation. While Measure Y did assume some inflation, the spike over the past three years was unexpected. As a result, projected and actual costs have increased by more than \$100 million. With a fixed bond amount of \$735M, this means we cannot afford to do all of the projects to the same extent that were planned when Measure Y was put before the voters. Just like many families have had to make hard decisions because of inflation, the District has to make hard decisions, as well.

Therefore, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee, unanimously voted in the spring to reconfigure the District's spending plan to prioritize major school projects. This means that many of those projects are still in the revised plan and moving forward (see below). However, one major project has already had to be reduced. That school community has been informed of the changes. For more details, please see the [revised spending plan](#).

What's more is that the impacts of inflation continue, and we expect them to cost us an even greater portion of the bond dollars. That means future projects could see additional reductions to keep them within budget, and others could be delayed outright.

## **MAJOR PROJECTS CONTINUING TO MOVE FORWARD**

### **Roosevelt Middle School \$91.55M - In Design Phase**

Modernize the existing Roosevelt Middle School campus with focus on environmental remediation, site improvements, seismic improvements, right-sizing of classrooms, mechanical and electrical improvements, etc.

### **McClymonds High School \$91.25M - In Design Phase**

The proposed modernization of McClymonds consists of a complete plumbing system and fixtures replacement, and upgrades to the HVAC and electrical systems. Also, there will be an improved campus layout, and upgrades to classrooms, labs and administrative spaces through new finishes, furniture and equipment in the main building and gym. McClymonds will also see outdoor space and athletic facility improvements such as new stadium bleachers, scoreboard, and other site work.

### **Coliseum College Preparatory Academy \$55M - In Planning Phase**

The expansion of CCPA will create the space needed to meet the projected growth in enrollment and ensure the campus better aligns to the 6-12 grade configuration.

**Melrose Leadership Academy at Maxwell Park \$36.5M - In Planning Phase**

The modernization of Melrose Leadership Academy at Maxwell Park consists of seismic and accessibility upgrades, HVAC and electrical upgrades, portable replacements, and educational adequacy for the grades served on campus.

**Garfield Elementary School \$56.7M - In Feasibility Study Phase**

The feasibility study will focus on modernizing classrooms and instructional spaces, improving student and staff safety, and addressing the underlying building systems needs.

OUSD will continue navigating the challenges of inflation while prioritizing student growth and academic success, ensuring that all students are in safe, welcoming, and nurturing environments that enable them to get the most out of their education. We are committed to being good stewards of public funds as we implement Measure Y, guided by the needs of the schools and the desires of the voters of Oakland.

In community,



Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell  
Superintendent



Mike Hutchinson  
President, Board of Education

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