



Superintendent's Bond Measure Update

Dear Berryessa community,

Berryessa Union School District is committed to providing a quality education for all students, preparing them to succeed in high school, college and beyond. As you may be aware, our District has been assessing its school facilities needs in order to continue preparing our students for success.

Improving School Safety and Educational Facilities for the 21st Century

Our classrooms, labs and school buildings require basic repairs and upgrades to keep them clean, up-to-date and safe for improved student learning. Students require updated computer technology to excel on new, rigorous state assessments and in today's competitive economy.

Potential November 2014 Bond Measure

To address these needs, BUSD is considering a November 2014 bond measure. We have completed a full, District-wide facilities needs assessment and are now evaluating the specific needs of each school site. Based on these site-level assessments we will prioritize urgent projects to be completed with the potential bond. The Board has been discussing a \$72 million bond to address our most critical needs, which would cost taxpayers no more than \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation annually, for as long as the bonds are outstanding.

A local school improvement measure would address priority projects at each school, including:

- Upgrading school security, fire, earthquake and other emergency safety systems
- Updating classroom learning technology and providing teacher technology training
- Upgrading classrooms to keep schools clean and well-maintained
- Replacing inefficient electrical, heating and cooling systems to maximize energy efficiency and save money

All bond funds would stay in Berryessa schools and could not be taken away by the State or be used for administrators' salaries, benefits or pensions. Citizen oversight and annual public audits would ensure funds are spent appropriately. The bond would qualify our schools for millions in future state matching funds, which would not otherwise be available.

A Visit to Your School Site

In May, we will visit each school's PTA meeting to discuss site improvements, answer questions and receive feedback. We will notify you of meeting dates in an April letter to the community, as well as on the District website.

We invite your feedback as we explore this measure to improve our schools. For questions or comments, please contact me at will.ector@busd.net or call (408) 923-1811.

Sincerely,

Will Ector

Superintendent, Berryessa Union School District

