

# Building an Equitable & Sustainable Future

AN OVERVIEW OF SCUSD'S  
APPROACH TO IMPROVING FACILITIES





## A Message from Interim Superintendent Lisa Allen

Welcome to the historic groundbreaking of the new Oak Ridge Elementary School in South Sacramento. This is a day of celebration and pride for the Sacramento City Unified School District and it marks the culmination of years of strategic planning and community collaboration, beginning with the passage of Measure H by Sacramento voters in March of 2020. The \$750 million general obligation bond provided Sac City Unified with the funding to begin making some of the estimated \$4.4 billion in facilities needs identified across the district.

We are currently rebuilding three campuses in our district. Similar groundbreakings were held in June at Edward Kemble/Cesar Chavez K-6 and Nicholas Elementary. These campuses were specifically chosen for improvements based on high segregation and poverty indicators and other factors identified by Sac City Unified's award-winning Facilities Master Plan Equity Index.

The construction of the new Oak Ridge Elementary School is a direct reflection of our unwavering commitment to equity and improving the outcomes of students who have been historically underserved. At Sac City Unified, our belief is that facilities planning is community planning and that approach is reflected in the design of this ultramodern campus, featuring an oversized multipurpose room, a STEAM lab, a community room, several shade canopies, a U14 soccer field, and an overall focus on energy efficiency and environmental conservation.

Our hope and expectation is that this new campus will change young lives and make a positive impact on the neighborhood and its families that lasts for generations. Thank you for your continued support of Sacramento City Unified as we work to lift, inspire, and transform our community.



## Rebuilding Oak Ridge Elementary School

The age, location, demographics, and student outcome data of the three new schools being rebuilt in our district were all key factors in our decision to construct a new campus.

## A Rich History of Community and Connection

Originally called Fruit Ridge School, Oak Ridge Elementary was officially annexed into SCUSD in 1958. It was originally built on a plot of land where a large, lone oak tree grew, so upon annexation, the name was changed to Oak Ridge. This school has many students whose families have attended the same site for generations. Although the old oak tree will be removed to make way for the new building, the wood will be repurposed in the design to honor its legacy at the site, and a new mature oak tree will be transplanted into the center of the new campus.”



## An Overview of SCUSD's Award-Winning Approach to Facilities Master Planning

### A focus on equity, accessibility and sustainability

In Sac City Unified, we recognize that our system is inequitable by design and we vigilantly work to confront and interrupt inequities that exist to level the playing field and provide opportunities for everyone to learn, grow, and reach their greatness. This is also true within our facilities department, where facilities staff not only ensure the physical environments of our schools are clean, safe, and welcoming, but that we also look at those sites and spaces through the lens of equity and environmental stewardship.

Countless studies have shown that the conditions of school facilities affect student achievement and health. Furthermore, studies have shown that students from lower-income zip codes are more likely to attend schools in poorer conditions, and schools in those communities often receive the least amount of school facilities funding\*. That is why we not only strive to maintain our school facilities in an environmentally efficient and appropriate working manner, but we have created a first-of-its-kind equity index to guide how our Facilities Master Plan outlines how we are prioritizing the renovation of our facilities to address significant equity and opportunity gaps.

The equity index identifies the needs of under-resourced, historically marginalized neighborhoods and the student populations identified in the Local Control and Accountability Plan's (LCAP) goals, using indices established by the Berkeley Opportunity Map and Department of Education's California School Dashboard. The equity index drives the identification of capital projects rather than traditional means for identifying such projects. The District was recently recognized for this work with the 2022 Leroy F. Greene Design and Planning Award of Excellence provided by the California Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) and the American Institute of Architects, California (AIA), and we have begun to receive inquiries from interested Districts across the state and nation in relation to our facilities master plan.

\* Filardo, M., Vincent, J.M., & Sullivan, K. (2019). How crumbling school facilities perpetuate inequality. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 100 (8), 27-31. Accessed on February 3, 2022 at <https://kappanonline.org/how-crumbling-school-facilities-perpetuate-inequality-filardo-vincent-sullivan/>



## A Snapshot of 2022-2023 Facilities Achievements

### MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

- **Hiram Johnson High:** football stadium and concessions
- **Rosemont High:** stadium turf replacement
- **Luther Burbank High:** pool and locker room modernization
- **Albert Einstein Middle:** new gym floor and roof
- **John F. Kennedy High:** new roof

### MULTIPLE SCHOOL INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT OUR DISTRICT

- Shade structures
- Hardcourt replacements
- New playgrounds
- Exterior LED lighting retrofits
- Refillable water bottle stations
- Intercom and clock replacements
- Security fencing and cameras

# Our 7 Step Community Impact Process

## #1 COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION

Uplifting the voice of students, families, staff and key stakeholders through robust community engagement

**650**

parents have weighed in so far on the Kemble/Chavez rebuild

**330**

parents have weighed in so far on the Nicholas rebuild

**420**

parents have weighed in so far on the Oak Ridge rebuild

## #3 EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

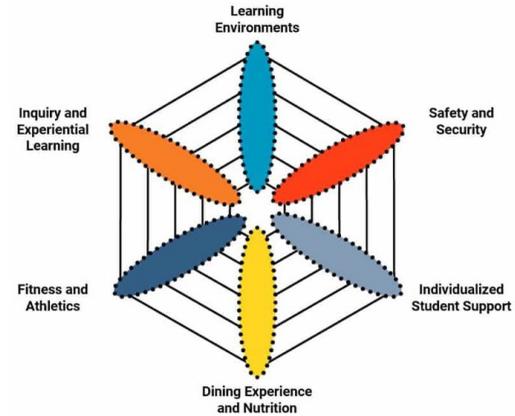
Co-creating insights with stakeholders to align Facilities projects with our District's vision through research-based design strategies



Campus assessments for all of our schools can be found at [scusdplan.org/campus-assessments](https://scusdplan.org/campus-assessments)

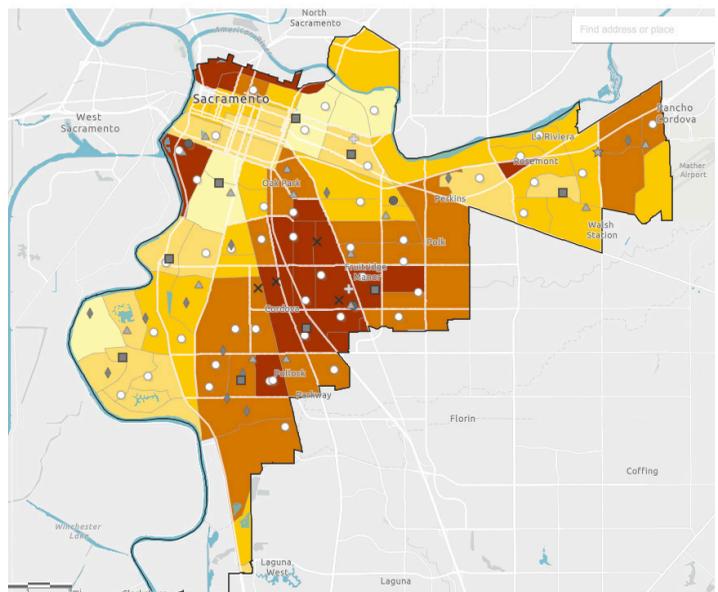
## #2 CAMPUS ASSESSMENTS

Identifying health and safety risks and needed energy, furniture, resource and infrastructure upgrades



## #4 EQUITY INDICATORS

Leveraging quantitative data to make equity-informed funding decisions and prioritize our most marginalized schools



## #5 PROJECT PRIORITY METHODOLOGY

Prioritizing rebuilds, modernization and maintenance projects when limited funding is available



## #6 VISION PROJECTS

Creating spaces that support the District's vision for learning environments that improve equitable outcomes for students



## #7 FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Grouping construction projects into those that are needed to address health and safety needs and those that support the District vision



Review our Facilities Master Plan at [scusdplan.org](https://scusdplan.org)  
[scusdplan.org/chapter/facilities-masterplan](https://scusdplan.org/chapter/facilities-masterplan)



## Summer 2023 Projects

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

<b>Bret Harte</b>	Hard court replacement; ADA pathway replacement; parking lot replacement
<b>Bret Harte</b>	Intercom/Clock replacement
<b>Chavez/Kemble</b>	Interim housing construction site wide
<b>James Marshall</b>	Roof Replacement
<b>John Sloat</b>	Hard court replacement; ADA pathway replacement; parking lot replacement
<b>John Still K8</b>	Gym HVAC install
<b>Judah Elem</b>	Hard court replacement; ADA pathway replacement; parking lot replacement
<b>Leonardo da Vinci K8</b>	Gym HVAC install; carpet install
<b>Nicholas Elem</b>	Site demo for new construction
<b>Rosa Parks K8</b>	Gym HVAC install
<b>Sequoia Elem</b>	Restroom replacement; fence

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS

<b>Burbank High School</b>	New electrical; flooring; exterior paint; ADA pathway
<b>Fern Bacon</b>	Gym HVAC install
<b>Hiram Johnson</b>	Baseball/Softball; HVAC controls
<b>Sutter Middle</b>	Gym and Cafeteria HVAC
<b>Kit Carson</b>	Camera Install
<b>Kit Carson</b>	HVAC install
<b>Kennedy High</b>	New parking lot; HVAC on Building C
<b>Albert Einstein MS</b>	Re-roof
<b>Cal Middle</b>	Re-roof



## More Summer 2023 Projects

### NEW FENCES WILL BE INSTALLED AT:

- G.W. Carver
- Isador Cohen
- Matsuyama
- McClatchy
- Parkway
- Rosa Parks
- Rosemont
- Sutterville
- Tahoe

### INTERCOMS AND CLOCKS WILL BE REPLACED AT:

- Camellia Basic
- Crocker Riverside
- Ethel Phillips
- Father Keith B. Kenny
- Hiram Johnson
- Hollywood Park
- John Cabrillo
- New Joseph Bonnheim
- Leataata Floyd
- Leonardo da Vinci
- McClatchy

## Measure H Projects and Social Justice for Our Students

Sacramento has had a long and painful history of racially segregating its neighborhoods\* through race covenants like redlining and other economic policies between 1913 and 1948, and appraisal tactics were used to perpetuate real estate segregation into the late 1970's. Historically, neighborhoods with mostly white demographics were heavily invested in while funding was divested in neighborhoods with higher concentrations of people of color. A near century of these practices has led to predominantly white neighborhoods having a major advantage. Until recently, this was even true in our District, where patterns of preferential public investment matched this trend; more funding was being poured into schools in affluent neighborhoods to bolster enrollment.

Today, our District's core value is that our system is inequitable by design and we vigilantly work to confront and interrupt inequities that exist to level the playing field and provide opportunities for everyone to learn, grow and reach their greatness. Our investments now reflect this value as we seek to prioritize investments using an equity index and by identifying schools with high or moderate-to-high percentages of students identified in our LCAP goals, including students of color, students with disabilities, English language learners, foster youth and homeless youth.

Where we grow up can determine the trajectory of our lives, and even predict our life spans. Strong correlations between the lasting impact of how neighborhoods were historically segregated and socioeconomic hardships like poor air quality, food deserts, lower life expectancies and even academic achievement can be easily identified by mapping. In an effort to disrupt these inequities, we are using such mapping to guide investments into schools whose facilities were once neglected.

The voter-approved Measure H bond is a \$750 million funding source that we are investing to modernize these facilities, and in some cases, to rebuild them from the ground up. While this is a drop in the bucket compared to our \$4.4 billion assessment of need throughout our district, we have pinpointed vision projects, such as the rebuilding of Oak Ridge Elementary School, to align with our theory of change.



**Learn more about our equity indicators for our Facilities Master Plan at**  
[suscplan.org/chapter/understanding-inequities](https://suscplan.org/chapter/understanding-inequities)

\*NBC News. (2020, August 4). Racism In Fine Print: How Old Housing Policies Impact Non-white Communities | NBC News NOW [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J54le0R5S7s>

The long, painful history of the Sacramento neighborhood where Stephon Clark was killed. (2018, March 30). <https://archive.thinkprogress.org/sacramento-segregation-geography-stephon-clark-72d7800743ee/>

Yoon-Hendricks, A. (2021, June 30). Sacramento ranks as a 'highly segregated' city, study finds. Why it's worse than 30 years ago. The Sacramento Bee. <https://www.sacbee.com/news/equity-lab/article252264623.html>

## Measure H Bond Oversight Committee

After a bond measure is approved by voters, the SCUSD Board of Education is legally required to appoint a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC).

This Committee consists of dedicated volunteers who actively review the spending of Measure H bond funds by the District and report their findings to the Board of Education and the public.



### The CBOC's 6 Key Roles Are:

1

**Review and report on the proper expenditure of the taxpayers' money for school construction.**

2

**Advise the public as to whether the District is in compliance with the requirements of Prop 39.**

3

**Convene to provide oversight for:**

- Ensuring that bond revenues are only expended for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities as approved by the voters and as identified in the District's school facilities project list prepared for Measure H; and
- Ensuring that no bond revenues are expended for any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses.

4

**Conduct open meetings which comply with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, including notice provisions which are the same as those followed by the Board of Trustees of the District.**

5

**Issue regular reports on the results of its activities, and issue a report at least once per year; and**

6

**Make all documents and reports available to the public via the internet website of the District.**



**Learn more or apply to be on our Measure H CBOC at**  
[scusd.edu/citizens-bond-oversight-committee-h](https://scusd.edu/citizens-bond-oversight-committee-h)



Learn more at [scusdplan.org](https://scusdplan.org)