

Galt Joint Union Elementary School District FAQ's

How are Galt Joint Union Elementary School District schools doing?

Galt Joint Union Elementary School District (GJUESD) is committed to promoting growth and innovative educational programs that integrate personal strengths, social, emotional, and academic learning for our students.

What challenges are Galt Joint Union Elementary schools facing?

GJUESD is committed to providing a quality education to our students. However, many of our schools were built decades ago and need upgrades to keep up with today's changing education and safety standards. Security systems and fire prevention systems are old and outdated, classroom roofs leak, and older electrical and sewer lines need to be replaced. Our schools have outdated classrooms and science labs that were built for a different era of education and students must learn on equipment that is now outdated.

How is Galt Joint Union Elementary School District planning to address these issues?

To complete needed repairs and improvements across our community schools, the Board of Education is considering placing a \$27 million bond measure on the November 2024 ballot. This local funding would help GJUESD qualify for state matching funds that would otherwise go to other districts.

Specifically, what could this school improvement bond measure do?

- Provide clean and safe schools and classrooms
- Repair and upgrade older schools, classrooms, and outdoor learning spaces so they meet current safety codes and provide proper access for students with disabilities
- Improve campus security systems including emergency lighting, fencing, locks, alarms, and cameras
- Fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems

How do we know funds from a potential measure would be spent wisely?

By law, any potential bond measure would require fiscal accountability protections, including:

- All funds would be controlled locally for GJUESD schools only and could not be taken away by the State
- A detailed project list outlining the specific use of funds would be required
- An independent citizens' oversight committee and mandatory annual audits would ensure all funds are spent as voters are intended
- No funds could be used for administrators' or staff salaries

How much would this school improvement bond measure cost?

The annual cost of the measure is estimated to be 3¢ per 100 of assessed (not market) valuation of local property, for as long as bonds are outstanding. Assessed value is based on the original purchase price of a home and is often lower than market value, particularly for those residents that have owned their homes for a long time.

Would all funds benefit all schools in GJUESD?

Yes. Funds would be locally controlled and would benefit all Galt Joint Union Elementary School District schools. No funding could be taken away by the State or used for other purposes.

Is there any other way to maintain and improve our schools?

Our district has very few options when it comes to funding the necessary repairs and updates that our schools need. The State does not provide funding for facilities updates without local matching funds. Redirecting funds in the current budget would take resources out of our classrooms and away from our students. A potential facilities improvement bond measure could provide the funding needed to fix and improve school facilities to ensure we can continue to provide a safe, modern learning environment for all local students.

Haven't we already passed a bond measure?

In 2016, voters in the GJUESD community passed Measure K which authorized a \$19.7 million school facilities bond measure. This means that in the last 8 years there has been no dedicated sources of school improvement funding from the State.

Has the District used funds from previous measures responsibly?

Yes. The Measure K citizens' oversight committee has found that GJUESD completed Measure K projects on time and aligned with voter-approved priorities. In fact, because of the District's fiscal responsibility this has kept the tax rate down for local homeowners. The oversight committee reports can be viewed at: www.galt.k12.ca.us/Our-District/Measure-K-Connection/index.html.

What level of support does a potential bond measure need to pass?

A potential measure would need to be supported by 55% of voters in order for it to pass. If placed on the November 2024 ballot, all registered voters living in the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District would be eligible to vote on the measure.

How can I share feedback and learn more?

Planning for the future of our schools is a community process, and as GJUESD looks to the future, your input is important to us. To share your thoughts, please take our survey by visiting tinyurl.com/GJUESD-Survey or contact superintendent@galt.k12.ca.us.