

Frequently Asked Questions Paradise Unified School District

What is the goal of the Paradise Unified School District?

Paradise Unified School District (PUSD) offers quality education for students from elementary to high school in both Paradise and Magalia. Our schools aim to graduate proactive, knowledgeable citizens who are prepared for the modern world. Paradise Unified School District takes this mission seriously; we are continuously evaluating student feedback and test scores to optimize classroom strategies for effective learning.

What is the state of our local school facilities?

While the Camp Fire in 2018 destroyed our schools and devastated our communities, PUSD remains resilient in our rebuilding efforts to ensure a bright and hopeful future for all students. The work we have done includes the construction of new, modernized schools and facilities, but there is still work left to do as our community continues to recover and grow.

Will Paradise Elementary be rebuilt?

Paradise Elementary School was completely lost in the 2018 Camp Fire. With so many schools lost or damaged in the fire, the District's first goal was to ensure all students pre-kindergarten through graduation in our area had safe, updated classrooms to learn in. Now that we have finished the first phase of rebuilding schools at each grade level, it is time to rebuild Paradise Elementary to ensure PUSD can continue to educate students of all ages and serve our community for decades to come.

Are other PUSD schools in need of repair?

While the District has been able to update and rebuild several of our campuses in the wake of the Camp Fire, we have always known that our local schools' facilities needs are greater than current funding can provide. The State of California provides very limited funding for school improvements, and most State funding requires local matching funds. Rebuilding school campuses, making safety improvements and modernizing classrooms helps ensure that our schools can continue to serve our students and community.

What types of repairs and improvements are most needed at our local schools?

Identified needs and improvements are needed across all our campuses, including to:

- Support construction of rebuilding Paradise Elementary School
- Repair or replace deteriorating plumbing, leaky roofs and heating and cooling systems
- Construct and modernize classrooms/ labs and increase student access to computers and technology
- Make health, safety and handicapped accessibility improvements

How does PUSD plan to address these needed repairs and improvements?

Because the State does not provide funding for facilities, local schools cannot maintain safe learning environments that meet current instructional standards without a local funding source. To complete identified construction, repairs, and improvements across all school sites, the PUSD Board of Trustees is considering placing a \$44 million local school bond measure on the November 2024 ballot for local voters to consider.

How much would this potential measure cost?

While no final decisions have been made, a potential measure would legally be limited to \$60 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed (not market value) for as long as bonds are outstanding.

What is the difference between assessed value and market value?

The cost of a bond measure is based on the assessed value of properties. The assessed value of property is generally based on the last purchase price and may not increase to reflect inflation by more than 2% a year. Market value, on the other hand, is based on market conditions and tends to grow at a much faster rate. Thus, the assessed value is usually much lower than the market value, especially if a property was purchased long ago at a much lower price than it could be purchased for today. It is this lower assessed value upon which the cost of a bond measure is based.

I don't have children attending local schools. How does this impact me?

Even if you do not have school-age children, supporting quality education in our local schools can improve quality of life in our community and protect the value of our homes.

How can I share my thoughts or learn more?

Planning for the future of our schools is a communitywide endeavor.

As PUSD considers options for the future of our local schools, please share your thoughts by taking our online community survey. Scan the QR code below or visit: bit.ly/PUSD-survey

