



Measure Y Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is Measure Y?

The Measure Defined. Measure Y is a local school bond measure on the November 8, 2022 ballot seeking voter authorization to issue bonds to repair and upgrade school facilities and equipment. To pass, the measure must secure at least 55% support plus one vote among voters casting ballots on the measure. A “YES” vote approves the issuance of bonds to fund the repair and upgrade of schools; a “NO” vote rejects the plan. All residents registered to vote within the district boundaries are eligible to vote on Measure Y.

Why have College School District & Santa Ynez Valley Charter School placed Measure Y on the ballot?

We believe that all students deserve to learn in safe, quality classrooms and school facilities. Our priorities are first, to ensure academic success for every student; and second, to ensure our school facilities and grounds are safe, secure, modern, and equipped to provide the best educational environment possible. As one of the oldest education institutions in California, our district has been holding classes at the College school campus since the late 1800s. Our aging schools were built 60-80 years ago and are critically overdue for repairs to meet current health and building safety codes, provide proper access for students with disabilities, and remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes. Basic repairs are critically needed including replacing deteriorating roofs, plumbing, HVAC, and electrical systems. We work hard to maintain our school facilities, but these types of repairs and renovations go beyond the scope and means of our regular maintenance budgets. School bonds are the established and most common way to fund the upgrades our schools need.

What is the actual question voters will be asked to decide in November? Official Ballot Question:

“To repair aging classrooms/school facilities to meet health and safety codes; fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing and electrical; remove asbestos/lead pipes; and upgrade, construct and equip classrooms, labs, facilities to support student achievement in science, math, technology, engineering, and arts; shall the College School District measure authorizing \$23,000,000 in bonds at legal rates be adopted, levying 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (\$1 million annually) while bonds are outstanding, with citizen oversight and all money staying local?”

What is required for Measure Y to pass?

At least 55% plus one of the voters who cast their ballots on Measure Y must vote in favor of the bond for it to be approved. State law prohibits use of bond funds for operations or administrator salaries, benefits, or pensions, and also requires independent financial and performance audits, and review by a Citizen’s Oversight Committee to ensure the proper use of bond proceeds.

How will Measure Y funds be used? Funds will benefit schools and facilities of the College School District, including improvements to the Santa Ynez Valley Charter School campus. These projects include:

- **Upgrading older schools built 60-80 years ago** to meet current health and building safety codes, and provide proper access to students with disabilities.
- **Repairing and replacing** deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and electrical systems.
- **Removing hazardous materials** like asbestos and lead pipes from our older schools.
- **Providing modern multi-use classrooms**, labs, and the technology needed to support high-quality instruction in math, science, engineering, and technology, with hands-on learning by-doing.
- **Upgrading classrooms and computer systems** to keep pace with technology.
- **Replacing aging portable classrooms** and surplus WW2 barracks that are expensive to repair and maintain with modern, permanent classrooms.

By law, all Measure funds must stay local, and will be dedicated to College SD and Santa Ynez Valley Charter school improvements only.

Will Measure Y support instructional programs?

Yes, indirectly. Our goal is to provide all students with access to the educational programs and settings they need to be successful in college and secure good-paying jobs of the future. Safe, modern school facilities and education technology are essential to maintaining quality schools and giving our students a competitive edge. As school facilities are repaired and improved, we believe students will benefit.

What about other funding?

We work hard to maintain our school facilities, but these types of repairs and renovations go beyond the scope and means of our regular maintenance budgets. We will continue to explore all options – including seeking State matching funds if they become available -- to leverage local taxpayer dollars even further in the effort to improve our local schools. No other funding currently exists to properly upgrade these facilities. School bond measures like Measure Y are the most common way to fund the significant repairs and upgrades we need.

Doesn't the state provide funding for facility repairs and upgrades?

The short answer: no. In the past, State funding has been available to support local school upgrades, but we cannot count on this uncertain source of funding – there simply are no guarantees. Moreover, in order to access State funding, school districts must generate local matching funds by passing a local school bond measure. Passing a local bond is the only way to qualify for additional State funding when and if it becomes available.

What about ongoing maintenance? Don't you have a facilities budget?

Our maintenance and operations staff members work hard to keep our schools in adequate working condition with limited resources. Our facility needs go beyond day-to-day facility repair and far outweigh the resources and state-allocated budget we now have to address them. With limited help from the State, our school health and safety repairs, facility, and technology needs are growing every day. School bond measures like Measure Y are the most common way to fund the upgrades our schools need.

What is a Proposition 39 school bond measure and what can it pay for?

A Proposition 39 school bond measure may only be used to fund school facility, technology and equipment improvements. A Proposition 39 school bond requires 55% plus one additional vote to pass. Proposition 39 school bonds may not be used for operations, administrator salaries, or pensions, and they also require independent financial and performance audits and Citizen Oversight Committee review of the use of bond proceeds. No revenue generated by a local bond can be taken away by the State. All revenue stays local to benefit our local schools and students.

Why have you placed this measure on the ballot now?

Safe, modern school facilities are essential to maintaining the quality of our local schools. We believe that all children deserve to learn in quality classrooms and school facilities. Our campuses are aging rapidly and are in dire need of both health and safety repairs and upgrades to classrooms, infrastructure, and technology. Education studies confirm that a child's early years are critical for brain development and that access to a high-quality education, safe school environment and well-qualified teachers are the key to academic and future success. This measure helps further our efforts to provide students an opportunity to thrive in school and prepare for future school, work and life experiences. It has been __ years since our last bond. Our community has been supportive of investing in our schools in the past, but more work is required.

How can we be assured that the bond money would be spent properly?

This measure requires strict taxpayer protections. If passed, all funds are subject to annual financial and performance audits, as well as review by an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure funds are spent properly.

How much would the bond cost each property?

A \$23 million bond translates to about 3 cents per year for every \$100 of a property's assessed valuation while bond are outstanding. The assessed valuation refers to taxable value, not the market value of your home. The taxable value of your home or business will depend on when you purchased it. If the bond is approved, the typical homeowner in our school district will pay about \$207 a year, or \$17.25 a month.

Will businesses share in the cost of a potential bond measure?

Yes, commercial, industrial, and residential property owners will be subject to the property tax.

I don't have children or they are grown and gone. Why does Measure Y matter to me?

A bond measure will help maintain quality schools with excellent teachers by repairing aging classrooms and improving student access to instruction in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). Improving our local schools protects our quality of life and property values, including homeowners without children in schools. Great schools are the foundation of any healthy, thriving community. The longer we wait to complete needed upgrades, the more expensive they will become.

If voters approve the bond, when would the work begin?

If the bond measure is approved, the staff will immediately focus on the most critical facilities needs. A schedule for funding projects will be developed so they can be completed on time and within budget.

Who makes the final decision on a local school bond?

The locally elected College School District Board of Education is the legal entity that placed this bond on the ballot with the collaboration of the Santa Ynez Valley Charter School. Ultimately, registered voters within the College School District boundaries will have the final say when they vote for or against the measure this November.

For more information: Please visit collegeschooldistrict.org, www.syvcs.org, call 805-686-7300/7360, or email mdiaz@collegeschooldistrict.org and info@syvcs.org.