

District Accomplishments

Sebastopol Union School District

Board of Trustees

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District Superintendent

Sara Gramm

Dear Community Member,

The Sebastopol Union Elementary School District has been providing dedicated and excellent educational services to local students since its formation in 1919. Currently, the District educates nearly 500 students at the District's two schools. It is through the hard work and dedication of teachers and staff that directly contribute to the education and success of our children.

In 2020, the District passed Measure E to update schools and add classrooms. Although facilities have been improved since then, our work needs to continue. It's time to further renovate our schools, improve classrooms and programs, and enhance the quality education provided to our local children. By investing in our schools, we can meet today's safety, technological, and educational standards and better our community. To do this, the District and Board of Trustees decided to place Measure N, a school improvement General Obligation (G.O.) bond measure, on the November 5, 2024, ballot to modernize and renovate our schools.

The attached Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handout is provided to assist teachers, staff, and voters in understanding the facts behind Measure N, and how its passage will affect the District, our students, and the community. Please take a moment to review the FAQ, and feel free to reach out to us should you have any questions on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Sara Gramm
Superintendent

Sebastopol Union School District

- Brook Haven Middle School was named a California Distinguished School for 2024.
- **Academics:** Students scored significantly above California's state average in all areas on the Academic Achievement Indicator. Park Side scored at the highest performance level (blue) for mathematics and Brook Haven scored at the second highest performance level (green) for English Language Arts.
- **Fine Arts:** The districtwide music program provides students with the chance to sing and play instruments such as the ukulele, clarinet, trumpet, and flute, as well as to learn music reading skills. Additionally, students in second through eighth grades produce two full-scale plays each year, covering aspects like lighting, sound, and acting. Middle school students also engage in a range of artistic enrichment programs.
- **Science & Technology:** Students participate in the Districtwide Garden & Sustainability program, where they learn the importance of environmental stewardship through weekly hands-on activities in school gardens. Classrooms are equipped with technology to enhance learning, and students have access to Chromebooks starting in second grade. Middle school students also benefit from active science labs and a fully equipped woodshop, STEAM and maker space.
- Highly qualified, innovative and caring staff.
- Before and after school care for TK-sixth grade students through CASTLE.



Measure N (Frequently Asked Questions Inside)

What is Measure N?

The Measure N is a \$24.0 million General Obligation (G.O.) bond program. This measure is intended to address the needs of the student population through modernization and renovation projects at the District's two schools: Park Side Elementary, serving grades TK-4, and Brook Haven Middle, serving grades 5-8.

What is a G.O. bond?

G.O. bonds fund projects such as the renovation of classrooms and school facilities, as well as construction of new schools and classrooms. Similar to a home loan, G.O. bonds are typically repaid over 30 years. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property - residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial - located within the District's boundaries.

Why did the District place Measure N on the ballot?

Our schools are outdated, and upgrades and renovations need to be made. While facilities have been well maintained, old classrooms must be upgraded since many do not meet 21st century education and technology standards. A local school improvement measure would allow the District to improve the quality of the school facilities and education provided to local children.



Why can't the District meet its facilities needs with its current budget?

Today, the scope of improvements needed at the Sebastopol Union School District is far more than the current funding sources available. The funding which the District receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating children and not the cost of upgrading and modernizing facilities.

How did the District come up with the Measure N project list?

Over the last couple of months, with input from staff, teachers, parents, and an architect, the District has prepared a School Facilities Needs Analysis. The Needs Analysis identifies the major repairs and upgrades that need to be made.

Specific projects identified include:

- ✓ Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- ✓ Replacing temporary portables with permanent classrooms
- ✓ Constructing/modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms, and other facilities
- ✓ Replacing outdated heating, ventilation, and cooling systems
- ✓ Replacing deteriorating plumbing systems

What will the passage of the measure mean for our students and the community?

Measure N will provide our students with a better learning environment by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also used and available to the community.

What will happen if Measure N does not pass?

If the measure does not pass, our classrooms and school facilities will continue to deteriorate. In addition, funds that would otherwise go to classroom instruction will be needed to make critical safety repairs and improvements at each school. Major repairs will need to be postponed and as a result will likely be more expensive to make.

What will Measure N cost?

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$29 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year. (Do not confuse assessed valuation with market value. Assessed valuations are the value placed on property by the County and are lower than market values). Check your property tax statement for your current assessed valuation.

How can I be sure that Measure N funds will be spent on improving our local schools?

By law, all funds have to be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state. Furthermore, an independent citizens' oversight committee will be established to ensure that bond funds are properly spent. Also, by law, there must be annual audits and no bond money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.



The Facts on Measure N,
the Local School Improvement Measure for the Sebastopol Union School District