

Capistrano Unified School District
Measure I
Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel
Frequently Asked Questions

How are our local schools serving Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel doing?

Our neighborhood schools that serve the communities of Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel have provided a high-quality education to local students for over 40 years and have a longstanding track record of strong academic performance.

Local students receive a well-rounded and excellent education at one of the following schools within our communities:

Elementary Schools		Middle Schools
Don Juan Avila Elementary School	Hidden Hills Elementary School	Aliso Viejo Middle School
Marian Bergeson Elementary School	Laguna Niguel Elementary School	Don Juan Avila Middle School
Canyon Vista Elementary School	John S. Malcom Elementary School	Niguel Hills Middle School
Crown Valley Elementary (CRA/OCASA)	Moulton Elementary School	High Schools
R.H. Dana Elementary School	Oak Grove Elementary School	Aliso Niguel High School
Dana Hills Exceptional Needs Facility	George White Elementary School	Dana Hills High School
Foxborough Elementary (Journey School)	Wood Canyon Elementary School	

What challenges are facing our schools?

While local students continue to excel, our classrooms and school facilities are aging and require upgrades for safety and to keep pace with rising academic standards. Many of our schools were built between 25 and 40 years ago and need repairs and upgrades to continue serving our students and community for decades to come.

Our district maintenance team works hard to take care of our aging classrooms and school facilities by keeping up with minor repairs and maintenance. Unfortunately, significant upgrades and improvements needed at aging high schools are beyond what can be accomplished by our maintenance team and funded by our regular maintenance budget. The State of California provides very limited funding for school improvements and most state funding requires local matching funds.

We also need to consider that our high school was built for a different era of education. 25 to 40-year-old classrooms, labs and facilities need to be upgraded to support today’s instruction in science, technology, engineering, math, performing arts and athletics. To prepare our students for the current job market we need up-to-date career technical education classrooms and labs to support 21st-century instruction.

How is the District planning to address these issues?

Capistrano USD has conducted a thorough assessment of all school facilities to identify the most urgent and high priority improvements. Priority improvements include enhancing school safety and security, modernizing older classrooms and schools to meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools, and providing up-to-date equipment, technology and training classrooms for vocational and career education programs students need for success at community colleges, universities and in their careers.

In order to fund these projects, the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place Measure I, a local school improvement bond measure, on the March 2020 ballot that could generate up to \$300 million in locally controlled funding to repair and modernize schools in Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel. Measure I would cost homeowners \$34 per \$100,000 of the assessed value of their home while bonds are outstanding. Funds generated by Measure I would go directly to repair and upgrade the schools serving these communities only. No funds could be taken by the State or be diverted to other schools within our district or region.

Specifically, how would funds from Measure I be used?

If Measure I is approved by local voters, repairs and upgrades to our neighborhood schools could include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs, wood and support beams that have termite damage and dry rot as well as replacing plumbing and failing electrical systems as needed
- Upgrading classrooms, science labs and technology to support high-quality instruction in science, technology, engineering and math
- Keeping computer systems and instructional technology up to date
- Modernizing labs and career-training facilities that prepare students for careers in healthcare, biomedical science, computer science, robotics and skilled trades
- Removing hazardous materials like asbestos and lead paint from older school sites
- Installing, repairing or replacing air conditioning units in classrooms to improve air quality as well as renovating bathrooms and water fountains to meet current health, safety and ADA standards
- Upgrading older schools so they meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools

Would Measure I pay for administrators' salaries or pensions?

No, none of the money from this measure could be used for salaries, benefits or pensions for administrators.

How do I know funds from Measure I would be used responsibly?

Measure I would require a clear system of accountability. This would include provisions such as:

- A detailed project list identifying exactly how the money would be used
- An independent citizens' oversight committee comprised of local residents to ensure funds are spent as promised
- By law, no money from Measure I could be used for administrator salaries or pensions
- No funds can be taken by the State and all of the funds generated by Measure I would go to schools in Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel

Would the funds from Measure I be shared equally across all schools in Capistrano Unified School District?

No, the funds generated from Measure I would be dedicated to only the schools in Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel. Capistrano USD has created a School Facility Improvement District (SFID) specifically for Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel schools. The neighborhoods being served by Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel schools will have the opportunity to vote on Measure I. If Measure I is approved, commercial and residential property owners within the SFID boundary would be subject to the cost of the measure.

How much would Measure I cost?

The annual cost of Measure I would not exceed approximately \$34 per \$100,000 in assessed value (not market value) of a property per year and the tax will be in place as long as the bonds are outstanding and until they are fully repaid. Measure I could generate up to \$300 million in locally controlled funding to repair and modernize our schools in Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel.

Will this help our local schools access state matching funds for facility upgrades?

Yes, Measure I will provide the matching funds needed to access state dollars that will otherwise go to schools in other communities. If matching funds are available, accessing these state dollars will help reduce the cost of school improvements for local taxpayers.

Have other school districts run measures in a portion of their district to fund targeted needs at specific schools?

Yes, this approach has been used by other Orange County school districts in recent years, including Irvine USD and Tustin USD. The law allowing schools districts to create School Facility Improvement Districts (SFIDs) was enacted in 1998. Since then more than 50 school districts around California have formed SFIDs to fund school facility improvements within a specific geographic area.

Is there any other way to update our schools?

Capistrano Unified School District has very few options when it comes to making the necessary renovations and upgrades to our local schools. We can't rely on the State to complete these repairs. A local school facility improvement funding measure would provide the local control necessary to complete prioritized projects to provide a safe and modern learning environment for our students.

Has our community ever funded facility upgrades in the past?

Local voters have not passed a local funding measure for Capistrano Unified School District schools since 1999. Since then, the critical repairs and updates needed at our local schools have only become more urgent. We need a source of funding to make the improvements that our local schools need.

I don't have any kids in schools. How does local education funding affect me?

Great schools support strong, safe communities. Whether or not you have school-age children, protecting high quality schools means protecting our quality of life, keeping our community a desirable place for young families to move to and protecting our home values.

When will I be able to vote on Measure I?

All registered voters living in the Aliso Viejo, Dana Point and Laguna Niguel areas are eligible to vote on Measure I in the March 2020 election.

What level of support does Measure I need to pass?

Measure I needs to be supported by 55% of those who vote on the measure in order for it to pass.

How can I register to vote or learn more about voting?

You can register to vote at www.registertovote.ca.gov. To find out more about voting in this election, please contact the Orange County Registrar of Voters at (714) 567-7600.

How can I find out more?

To receive more information about the measures, please contact Ryan Burris, Chief Communications Officer, at CUSDFacilityUpdates@capousd.org or (949) 234-9427.