

Ripon Unified School District is committed to providing the highest quality education in the San Joaquin Valley in safe and modern learning environments for students and teachers. Ripon USD covers over 50 square miles of territory and serves over 3,300 students in pre-kindergarten through high school in seven local schools.






## »» Aging Schools in Need of Improvements

Many local schools were built 60 to 85 years ago and need basic repairs and upgrades to protect student safety and support quality education. Aging classrooms have leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and deteriorating plumbing and restrooms. Student safety and campus security improvements are needed, including upgrading smoke alarms, fire safety systems, safety lighting, and fencing.



## »» Local Funding to Repair & Upgrade Ripon USD Schools

Since the State does not provide adequate funding for school facility improvements, California school districts must rely on local voter-approved bond measures to upgrade aging schools. To ensure Ripon USD schools are safe and meet modern learning standards, the Ripon USD Governing Board is considering placing a \$32 million school improvement bond measure on the November 2024 ballot. If approved by local voters, the measure would cost property taxpayers in the District approximately \$35 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) value while bonds are outstanding. This measure would provide locally controlled funding that can only be used to repair and upgrade Ripon USD schools, including:

-  Repairing or replacing deteriorating roofs, plumbing, gas lines, sewer lines and electrical systems
-  Upgrading older schools to stay current with health codes, building safety codes, and improve access for students with disabilities
-  Improving student safety and campus security systems including security fencing and cameras, emergency communications systems, smoke detectors, fire alarms and sprinklers
-  Providing classrooms, labs, career technical facilities and technology infrastructure needed to support high quality instruction in math, science, engineering, arts and technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
-  Replacing aging and outdated portables with permanent classrooms

## »» Fiscal Accountability and Local Control Required

A local school facilities improvement bond measure would require strict fiscal accountability protections, including:

- ✓ All funds would be controlled locally to repair and upgrade Ripon USD schools only and could not be taken away by the State
- ✓ An independent citizens' oversight committee, mandatory annual audits, and public disclosure of all spending would ensure all funds are spent as voters intended
- ✓ A project list outlining the specific use of funds would be required
- ✓ No funds could be used for administrators' salaries
- ✓ Passage of this measure would help Ripon USD qualify for state matching funds that could otherwise go to improve schools in other communities

### LEARN MORE!

As Ripon USD plans for the future of our local schools, we would like to hear your thoughts. If you have questions or feedback you would like to share, please reach out to [facilities2024@riponusd.net](mailto:facilities2024@riponusd.net).