



# Continuing Improvements to Palo Alto Schools

## PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Board Considering Next Phase of School Upgrades

Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) is located in the heart of Silicon Valley and is well known for its rich tradition of educational excellence. Thanks to our supportive community and dedicated parents, teachers and staff, student achievement is among the top in the state and the nation. Our outstanding schools help maintain our quality of life and keep Palo Alto a desirable place to live.

### UPGRADES FOR STRONG SCHOOLS

Ten years ago, over 77% of local voters approved the Palo Alto Strong Schools Bond to fund significant improvements to PAUSD schools. These projects were completed on time and on budget and PAUSD has leveraged millions in matching dollars and private donations. However, this measure was only intended to address approximately half of the facility needs identified at that time.

### NEXT PHASE OF IMPROVEMENTS

As the Strong Schools Bond upgrades are being completed, PAUSD is planning improvements to support the District goals of high-quality teaching and learning, equity and access, and student wellness and safety. These improvements will continue the upgrades the Strong Schools Bond program began, enhancing school security, and upgrading classrooms and labs to meet 21st-century instructional standards.

### DEDICATED LOCAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

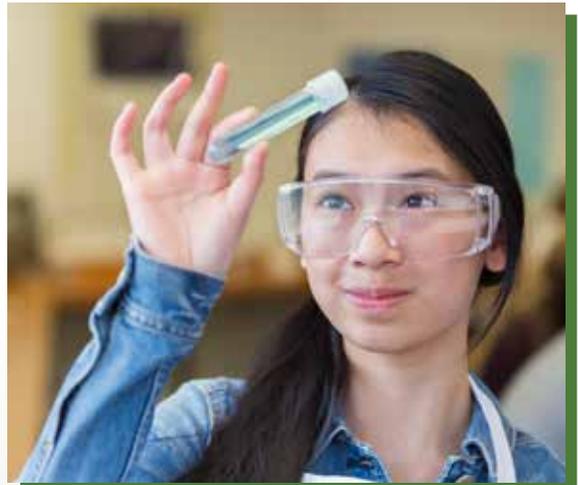
In order to complete the next phase of identified repairs and improvements, the PAUSD Board of Education voted unanimously to place Measure Z, a \$460 million bond measure, on the November 2018 ballot. If supported by 55% of voters, Measure Z would provide locally-controlled funding for school improvements, including:

- Ensuring school facilities are accessible for students with disabilities and equitable for all
- Upgrading schools to current seismic safety standards to keep students safe in the event of an earthquake
- Completing needed repairs at school facilities
- Increasing school safety and security, such as fire alarms, door locks and emergency communication systems to bring security systems up to current standards
- Providing classrooms and labs to support up-to-date science, technology, engineering and robotics instruction
- Providing up-to-date facilities to maintain outstanding performing and visual arts programs

### MANDATORY FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Measure Z would include strict fiscal accountability provisions, including:

- By law, all funds must stay local and no money could be taken away by the State or go to other school districts
- No funds could be used for administrators' salaries, pensions or benefits
- An independent citizens' oversight committee would be required to ensure funds are spent as voters intended
- The bond measure would cost approximately \$39 per \$100,000 of assessed (not market) property value



**For More  
Information**

Please visit [www.pausd.org](http://www.pausd.org) for more information or contact Bob Golton at [2018Bond@pausd.org](mailto:2018Bond@pausd.org) with questions or comments.