



Repair Needs in Schools

Improve Education; Ensure a Safe and Healthful Environment

Q: How can we continue the Long Beach Unified School District's legacy of excellence?

A: The Long Beach Unified School District is among five of the world's highest performing school systems. But many of our schools are old and need basic repairs. To maintain our high level of excellence and continue to improve education for each student in every school, we must invest in our aging schools, improve technology and update schools for health and safety.

Q: What basic school repairs are needed?

A: Many local schools were built 60 to 70 years ago and need basic health and safety improvements. We need to repair aging and deteriorating school bathrooms, meet handicap accessibility requirements, upgrade fire safety and school security systems, replace outdated electrical systems and wiring, and retrofit for earthquakes, so children can learn in a safe and healthful environment.

Q: How can we make sure our students are prepared for 21st Century careers?

A: Today's competitive global economy requires students to have a good education in technology. It is imperative that we make sure our schools' science and computer labs, libraries and classroom technology remain current so that students can learn the vital skills needed to go to college or compete for good jobs.

Q: How can we improve student health and safety?

A: Many Long Beach schools lack air conditioning, making classrooms extremely uncomfortable and difficult places to learn on hot days, with students needing to be sent home when classrooms become overheated. Installing energy efficient air conditioning systems will help improve learning by making sure classrooms are comfortable and ventilated on very hot days.

Students also need activities to keep them occupied and out of trouble and away from drugs and gangs. Increasing students' access to safe, supervised school recreation and physical education activities, which provide mentoring and counseling, will help prevent bullying, increase mental focus and health, and help prevent obesity in our students.

Q: What priorities for our schools have been identified by the community to date?

A: Top priorities for our schools that we've heard so far include:

- Retaining and attracting excellent teachers
- Meeting handicap accessibility requirements
- Repairing aging and deteriorating school bathrooms
- Retrofitting classrooms and schools to meet earthquake safety standards
- Upgrading electrical systems and wiring for computer technology and internet access
- Upgrading fire alarms, safety doors and fire sprinkler systems
- Upgrading school safety by installing security cameras, fencing and classroom door locks
- Maintaining existing childcare and after-school recreational programming in local schools
- Increasing student access to outdoor physical education facilities like tracks and fields
- Installing air conditioning in schools

For more information, or to join the conversation, please check back frequently at www.lbschools.net