Whittier Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
To Achieve and Maintain Excellence...

FACILITIES REPORT 2020
Fostering Student Excellence through Modern Learning Environments
Dear Whittier Union community,

Whittier Union High School District is dedicated to ensuring our students achieve excellence while providing our teachers and staff the tools to prepare our scholars for postsecondary success. Critical to those efforts is offering high quality and safe 21st century learning spaces.

When voters overwhelmingly supported Measure C in 1998 and Measure W in 2008, our community authorized up to $173 million to transform our schools into modern, state-of-the-art facilities that provide great educational opportunities for our students and are architecturally appealing.

Under the leadership of our Board of Trustees, our facilities and business staff worked diligently to deliver the best possible learning environments and support facilities for Whittier Union students, community and faculty. As part of our commitment to being responsible stewards of taxpayer money, we pursued all available state and federal matching grants to maximize bond funding.

As a result, significant improvements were made to each campus. We concluded our construction and modernization program in 2019 after completing the final leg of renovations.

As infrastructure and buildings age over time, however, we will continue to assess facilities and explore how to best address needs to ensure the success of our students in college and careers.

We are deeply appreciative of our Board of Trustees, Citizens’ Oversight Committee, facilities team and community for their incredible support over the last two decades as we worked to improve the health of our schools and the lives of our students. We hope to continue building on this progress with the Whittier Union community to ensure we meet the needs of every student who walks on our campuses.
Whittier Union’s construction and modernization program began in 1998, when voters supported the passage of Measure C, a $98 million facilities bond. Measure W – a $75 million facilities modernization bond approved by voters in 2008 – continued the work started by Measure C to improve school facilities, meet new program requirements and building standards and continue serving the needs of students in the 21st century.

Augmented by state and federal matching grants, the bond sales funded renovations, repairs and improvements to classrooms, vocational and career technical education buildings, libraries, gymnasiums, cafeterias, infrastructure and athletic facilities across the District.

Other critical projects included upgrading heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and energy systems; updating security, safety lighting, landscaping and irrigation; and improving access to school facilities for individuals with disabilities.

The Board of Trustees governed project expenditures with the guidance of a Citizens’ Oversight Committee.

Thank you for supporting our students and schools!

MODERNIZATION PROJECTS BY CATEGORY

1. Buildings and Classrooms – 80%
2. Stadiums/Athletic Fields, etc. – 13%
3. Utility, Infrastructure – 7%

FUNDING SOURCES

1. Measure C – 50%
2. Measure W – 26%
3. State Funds – 16%
4. Developer Fees – 2%
5. Deferred Maintenance – 5%
6. Prop 39 Energy – 1%

TOTAL FUNDS: $292.65 MILLION
As part of Whittier Union’s classrooms-first policy, a concerted effort went into upgrading and improving classrooms across District schools to ensure students are equipped with the proper learning tools and modernized environments in which to succeed.

Santa Fe High School, for instance, upgraded its four science classrooms with new lab tables and equipment for students to perform advanced experiments. New construction included California High School’s library, a two-story classroom building at La Serna High School and classroom buildings at Santa Fe High School. Whittier High School’s historic buildings also underwent significant renovations.

Science, music and business buildings, as well as libraries were also modernized.

Classrooms were remodeled with new ceilings and lighting, improved heating and air conditioning, furniture, storage space, large white boards and counters. Classrooms were also upgraded with audio/video systems, enabling teachers to link their computers to overhead projectors, facilitating instruction, group discussions and visual communication.

Wiring and internet access were also installed to facilitate a blended learning approach utilizing laptops and personal digital devices.
With 12 Career Academies across Whittier Union – 11 of which are California Partnership Academies – the District planned for the current and future needs of its robust career and technical educational programs.

To ensure students are prepared for trades and professional careers, the District upgraded CTE facilities and other hands-on learning spaces across schools. Improvements were made to such programs as culinary arts, woodshop, engineering and dance.
Whittier Union is home to championship athletic teams that train, practice and compete in state-of-the-art facilities – including brand new stadiums, all-weather tracks and revamped volleyball and tennis courts, football, baseball, softball and soccer fields.

The District constructed nearly identical 7,000-seat sports complexes at Pioneer and California high schools. Each stadium features home and visitor bleachers, artificial turf fields, all-weather tracks, soccer, baseball and softball fields, press boxes, concession stands, score boards, lockers and weight rooms, and coaches’ offices. Pioneer has revamped outdoor tennis courts, while Cal features outdoor basketball and volleyball courts. The stadiums are shared among all WUHSD comprehensive high schools.

La Serna’s athletic facilities include refurbished baseball and softball fields, natural turf football/soccer field with all-weather track, tennis courts and pathways. The school also features a weight room and aerobics classroom.

Santa Fe High, which also has a new all-weather track, upgraded its varsity and junior varsity baseball and softball fields with new backstops, bullpens, dugouts, batting cages and fencing.

Whittier High’s athletic amenities include an all-weather track, football, soccer, softball and baseball fields, along with bleachers, dugouts and irrigation systems.
Building better infrastructure is critical to Whittier Union’s ongoing success.

Efforts included upgrading and replacing heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units in classrooms, gymnasiums and auditoriums; improving irrigation, electrical, gas and water systems; adding infrastructure for instructional technology and repairing aging facilities and roofs.

Improved security cameras and safety lighting were installed at all campuses, all fire alarms were upgraded, fencing was added as needed, and improved access to school facilities for individuals with disabilities, such as ramps, were also constructed.

Today, Whittier Union high schools benefit from modern cafeterias and revamped kitchens with money-saving energy features. Solar panels were also added to the roof of Pioneer High School’s locker room building to generate electricity.

Common areas in which students congregate – including quads, gymnasiums and outdoor spaces – also received improvements. Shade structures were added to all campuses, sites received hardscape and landscape improvements and each comprehensive high school’s quad was modernized with new logos, painting and walkway covers.
Green Schools for Sustainable Futures

In addition to focusing on green building standards and sustainability in all modernization projects, Whittier Union has worked to integrate innovative practices into all District operations to conserve natural resources, reduce the District’s impact on the environment, and protect the health of students, staff and community.

The District has utilized $3 million in California Clean Energy Jobs Act (Proposition 39) funds to install energy-efficient upgrades, including new exterior lighting Districtwide, upgraded pool pumps and new thermostats across campuses. The District also installed 76 HVAC units at the Sierra Education Center, as well as new irrigation systems at all campuses to conserve water and allow for remote programming.

Whittier Union was recently awarded 10 electric, zero-emission school buses and charging infrastructure by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, helping to reduce exposure to pollutants and harmful diesel exhaust. The project is in the design phase.

We want to thank the Whittier Union Community for your support of our students, schools and facilities!

CONTINUING SCHOOL NEEDS INCLUDE:

- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Infrastructure improvements, including plumbing, paint and electrical
- Pool and locker room modernization
- Construction of a moderately-sized performing arts facility
- Security-related improvements
- Continued classroom modernization