

## **Antelope Elementary School District School Facilities Planning – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How are schools in Antelope Elementary School District doing?**

The Antelope Elementary School District (AESD) serves approximately 800 students in TK/Kindergarten through eighth grade and strives to provide students with a high-quality education, preparing them for high school and beyond. Our schools provide a caring, safe, challenging, and high-quality educational experience for all students.

### **What is the current state of our classrooms, labs, and school facilities?**

We are proud of the high quality of education in AESD, but our schools are aging and need repairs and updates. Antelope Elementary School and Berrendos Middle School were constructed in 1939 and 1969, respectively, and schools built that long ago were designed for a different era of education and to outdated safety and instructional standards.

Outdated classrooms and facilities are costly and inefficient to operate. Anticipated improvements include repairing or replacing leaky roofs, outdated student restrooms, windows, and lighting throughout our school facilities. Upgrades to protect student safety and security are needed, including replacing outdated fire alarms and emergency communication systems, and upgrading perimeter fencing and school security. Additionally, some of our schools have portable classrooms that have exceeded their usable lifespans and are costly to repair for continued use.

### **Are AESD schools well-maintained?**

Our District maintenance team works hard to take care of our aging classrooms and school facilities by keeping up with necessary repairs and maintenance. Unfortunately, significant upgrades and capital improvements needed at our aging schools are beyond what can be funded by our regular maintenance budget.

### **What are the options for repairing and upgrading aging local school facilities?**

On February 12, 2026, the Antelope Elementary School District Board of Trustees voted to place Measure T, a \$5.9 million school improvement bond, on the June 2026 ballot for the repair and upgrading of our local elementary and middle schools. Measure T is projected to cost approximately \$30 per \$100,000 in assessed (not market) property value while bonds are outstanding. If approved by local voters, Measure T could:

- Repair or replace leaky roofs, rusty plumbing, and deteriorating HVAC systems
- Install and upgrade security cameras and exterior lighting
- Update classrooms for science, technology, engineering, and math education
- Replace portable classrooms that have exceeded their usable lifespans
- Help ensure all schools have access to a multi-purpose room

### **Is there any other way to update our schools?**

The District has very few options when it comes to making the necessary repairs and upgrades our schools need. The State of California does not provide ongoing funding for school facility improvements. Measure T would provide local funding to address the facilities' needs in our local schools.

### **Would fiscal accountability protections be included in Measure T?**

Yes, Measure T would require mandatory fiscal accountability, including:

- All funds must be used to repair and improve Antelope Elementary School District classrooms and facilities
- No funds can be taken away by the State or used for other purposes, including administrators' salaries or pensions
- A detailed project list showing how funds are expected to be used
- An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and annual audits are required

### **Has AESD already passed a school improvement bond measure?**

In the past forty years, AESD has not asked for community support through a local bond measure. However, in recent decades, neighboring school districts have passed bond measures to improve local schools.

### **How much would Measure T cost?**

If passed by local voters, Measure T, a \$5.9 million bond measure, is estimated to cost taxpayers approximately \$30 per \$100,000 annually in assessed (not market) property value while bonds are outstanding, or about \$75 annually for the typical homeowner in the Antelope Elementary School District.

### **What is the difference between assessed value and market value?**

The cost of bond measures is based on the assessed value of properties. The assessed value of a property is generally based on the original purchase price and may not increase by more than 2% a year, per Prop 13, while the market value tends to grow at a much faster rate based on market conditions. Thus, the assessed value is typically lower than the market value, especially if a property was purchased long ago at a much lower price than it could be purchased for today. It is this lower assessed value upon which the repayment cost of a bond measure is based.

### **How can I be sure funds from Measure T will be spent properly?**

An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, comprised of local residents, must review the use of all bond funds from Measure T and report its findings to the public each year. Additionally, annual independent audits of all bond funds are mandatory.

### **May funds from Measure T be used for administrator salaries and pensions?**

No. By law, no funds from a school improvement bond measure can be used for non-bond operating expenses, including teacher and administrator salaries and pensions. Bond funds can only be used to repair and upgrade Antelope Elementary School District classrooms and facilities identified in Measure T's project list.

### **I don't have children attending local schools. How does this impact me?**

Whether or not you have school-age children, the quality of local schools impacts the quality of life in a community and impacts local home values. Academic research has shown that good local schools create demand for homes and help keep property values strong.

**How can I share my opinions or learn more?**

As AESD works to prepare our schools for the future, we welcome your input. To share your opinions and priorities, or to ask questions, please contact Superintendent Jim Weber at [AESDfacilities@antelopeschools.org](mailto:AESDfacilities@antelopeschools.org).