

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How are schools in Hillsborough City School District (HCSD) performing?

HCSD schools have adapted to changing and challenging circumstances the past two years in order to continue providing a quality education to local students. During the pandemic, our schools were one of the first to return to in-person education, and we were one of the only school districts to offer in-person instruction for a full school day and week. Our students continue the long Hillsborough legacy of performance as one of the top-scoring school districts on the state standardized tests. Our success is rooted in our dedicated teachers, staff, and parents' commitment to nurturing children socially, emotionally and academically. High-achieving schools improve the quality of life in our community and protect the property value of our homes.

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

We're proud of the high quality of education in Hillsborough schools, but most of HCSD schools are over 60 years old and

need repairs and upgrades to meet modern academic and safety standards. Currently, the outdated classrooms and facilities are costly and inefficient to operate. Additionally, updates are needed to meet current earthquake and fire safety standards to ensure the safety of our students as well as to modernize our schools so they support science, technology, engineering, arts and math education.

### Does the State provide funding for school improvements?

No, the State does not provide dedicated funding for school facility improvements. Our district maintenance team works hard to take care of our aging classrooms and school facilities by keeping up with minor repairs and maintenance. Unfortunately, significant upgrades and improvements needed at 60-year-old schools are beyond what can be accomplished by our maintenance team or funded by our regular maintenance budget. The very limited state funding for facility upgrades requires local matching funds usually provided by a local school improvement measure.

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

Our District completed a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan to determine priority improvements to our schools and develop a plan to provide students with the modern learning environment they need to be successful students and for future 21st-century careers. In order to keep pace with academic standards and keep local students safe, the HCSD Board of Education is considering placing a local school improvement bond measure on the June 2022 ballot.

### How much would a potential measure cost?

While no final decisions have been made, a potential measure would generate up to \$140 million to upgrade local schools and would cost about \$30 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value (not market value) per year.

For more information, visit [www.hcsdk8.org/bondmeasure](http://www.hcsdk8.org/bondmeasure).

## STAY CONNECTED

# ChalkTalk

AN UPDATE FROM HILLSBOROUGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Happy New Year! As we embark on 2022, I am honored to be serving as the HCSD School Board President and am filled with hope for the coming year. Having grown up in Hillsborough and attended both West and Crocker schools, our District has always held a special place in my heart.

The past two years have taught us many new lessons. We have been and remain steadfast in our commitment to keep our children in person for instruction. We strive and continue to try and provide the safest and most supportive environments for our learners as the world continues to shift under our feet.

Although I love returning to West and seeing the multipurpose room of my youth, it is time to update our aging facilities. This will ensure that our children will remain safe and enjoy both environmentally friendly and secure spaces.

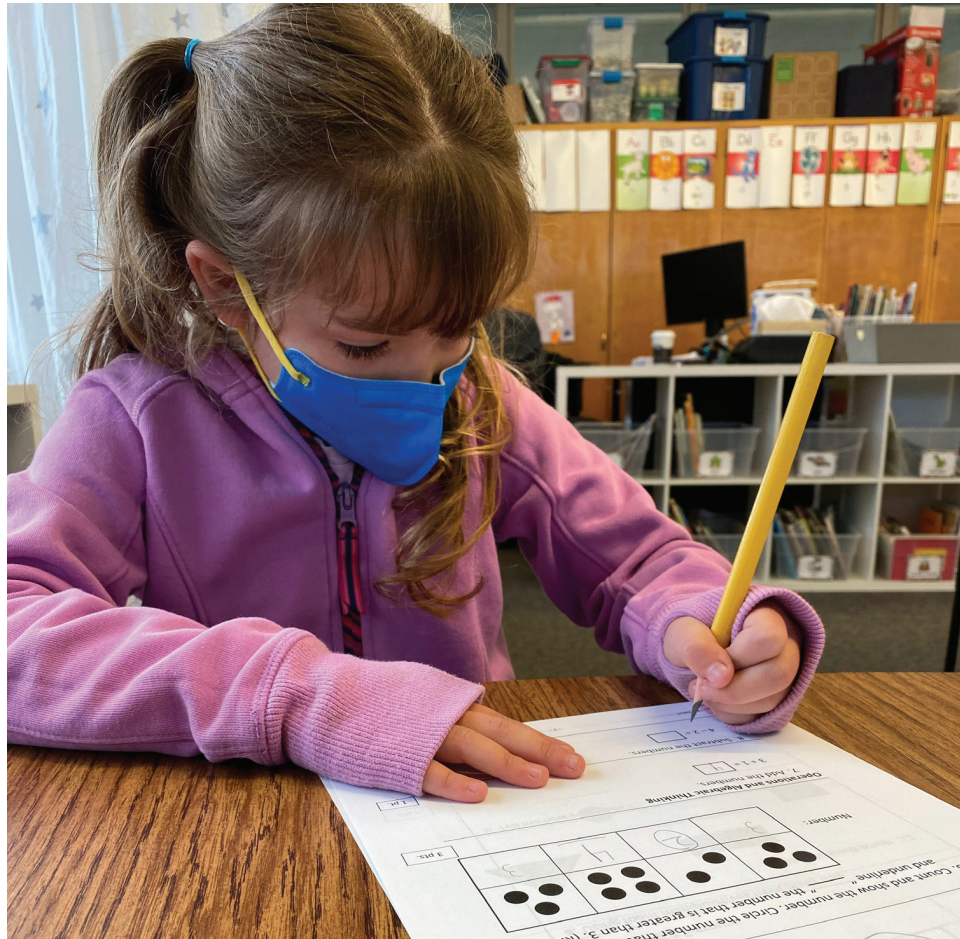
Our hope is to pass a bond measure in June 2022 so we can update our schools. We have received input from parents, teachers, community members and students on how our Town envisions our future campuses. We look forward to sharing our Master Facilities Plan with you.

Our team is beyond excited for this era of change and welcomes your input as we look forward to improving our campuses.

With deep appreciation for your support of our schools,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'An Huang Chen'.

**An Huang Chen**  
*Board of Trustees President*



# ChalkTalk

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Neighbor,

It has been quite the year here at Hillsborough City School District (HCSD). As we welcome in the new year, there are still challenges ahead to ensure the safety of our students, teachers and staff.

Our District is working tirelessly to make sure we are able to keep our schools open for in person learning which includes prioritizing the health of our students, teachers and staff. Despite the challenges in these uncertain times, the Hillsborough City School District has adapted to the new reality and circumstances, while continuing the excellent, well-rounded education of our students.

Our HCSD schools work to foster a learning environment that enhances social-emotional growth for all students. As the pandemic continues to impact the lives of our students the need for social-emotional support is needed more than ever. Our HCSD schools strive to foster a learning environment where students can grow academically, socially and emotionally. We will continue working to offer the high-quality education students need and deserve in these unprecedented times.

While we are focusing on the health and safety of our students and staff as we continue in-person learning, we must not lose sight of addressing other challenges facing our schools. One such challenge is updating our local classrooms, labs and school facilities to ensure they are safe, modern and meet current learning standards. Good schools improve the quality of life in our community and are a wise investment in the value of all homes in the community.

In this new year, the HCSD School Board will be exploring funding options to ensure continued high-quality schools today and into the future. We continue to be thankful for your ongoing partnership.

With Appreciation,



**Dr. Louann Carlomagno**  
*Superintendent*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

On February 16, 2022, the HCSD Board of Education will consider placing a school improvement bond measure on the June 2022 ballot. Meeting details can be found at [hillsborough.agendaonline.net/public/](https://hillsborough.agendaonline.net/public/).

**February 16, 2022, 6:00pm, Crocker Lecture Hall**

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# Highlights

## REPAIRING AGING SCHOOLS FOR HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION

Over the past two years, HCSD schools have adapted to changing and challenging circumstances in order to continue providing a quality education to local students. Another challenge we must meet is upgrading our aging facilities to meet modern academic and safety standards. Most of HCSD school buildings are over 60 years old and are costly and inefficient to operate. Additionally, updates are needed to modernize our schools so they support science, technology, engineering, arts, and math education for local students.

## DEDICATED LOCAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

In order to keep pace with academic standards and keep local students safe, the Hillsborough City School District Board of Education is considering placing a local school improvement bond measure on the June 2022 ballot that could generate up to \$140 million to repair and improve local schools. This measure would cost about \$30 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value (not market value) per year. If approved by local voters, this measure would:

- Upgrade classrooms for science, technology, engineering, arts and math instruction
- Repair and upgrade deteriorating roofs, plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling systems
- Improve classroom computers and technology
- Upgrade schools to meet current earthquake and fire safety standards
- Replace aging portables with permanent classrooms
- Install solar panels to reduce utility costs and save money for classroom programs

## MANDATORY FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A potential measure would require mandatory fiscal accountability, including:

- All funds would stay local to support HCSD students and could not be taken by the State
- No money could be used for administrators' salaries or benefits
- Citizens' oversight, independent audits and a detailed project list would be required to ensure funds are spent as promised



*Outdated HVAC unit in a South Elementary School classroom.*



*Old plumbing in a West Elementary School bathroom.*



*Weathered and damaged doors at West Elementary School.*