

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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Tenth District PTSA

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Government Financial Strategies

**Timothy Popejoy**

Bond Oversight Administrator

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Bond Oversight Coordinator

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RESOLUTION 2022-23

BOARD REPORT NO. 295-21/22

**RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL TO DEFINE AND APPROVE FIVE EARLY EDUCATION CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND CAMPUS UPGRADE PROJECTS AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN**

WHEREAS, District Staff proposes that the Board of Education (Board) define and approve five Early Education Center (EEC) outdoor classroom and campus upgrade projects, (as described in Board Report No. 295-21/22), and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein; and

WHEREAS, District Staff also requests that the Board authorize the Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Chief Facilities Executive and/or their designee(s), to execute all instruments necessary to implement the Project, including budget modifications and the purchase of equipment and materials; and

WHEREAS, The School Upgrade Program includes a spending target entitled "*Early Childhood Education Facilities Upgrades and Expansions*." Projects developed under this category of need are included in the Facilities SEP; and

WHEREAS, Staff's proposal includes outdoor classroom and campus upgrade projects at five school sites: 36<sup>th</sup> Street EEC, Hyde Park EEC, Cleveland EEC, Vine EEC, and Hobart EEC. These projects will convert existing asphalt and playground areas into dynamic, nature-based learning environments, as well as provide upgrades to school building/site systems (e.g., playground matting, roofing, HVAC systems) that have reached or exceeded their service life; and

**RESOLUTION 2022-23**

**RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL TO DEFINE AND APPROVE FIVE EARLY EDUCATION CENTER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND CAMPUS UPGRADE PROJECTS AND AMEND THE FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THEREIN**

WHEREAS, The proposed projects were identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with Local District and school site administrators. Sites were selected based upon the responses received to questionnaires sent to all EECs, each center's proximity and access to existing community green space, and evidence of parent, administrator, and staff commitment to the success of the program. Other factors considered included income level, center enrollment, community interest, and demographics; and

WHEREAS, The total combined budget for the projects is \$21,865,989. The projects will be funded with Bond Program funds earmarked specifically for Early Childhood Education facilities upgrades and expansions; and

WHEREAS, This action is consistent with the Los Angeles Unified School District's (Los Angeles Unified or District) commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment, as described in Los Angeles Unified local bond measures; and

WHEREAS, District Staff has concluded that this proposed Facilities SEP amendment will facilitate Los Angeles Unified's ability to successfully complete the Facilities SEP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee recommends that the Board of Education define and approve five EEC outdoor classroom and campus upgrade projects, with a combined budget of \$21,865,989, and amend the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein, as described in Board Report No. 295-21/22, a copy of which is attached hereto in the form it was presented to the BOC and is incorporated herein by reference.
2. This resolution shall be transmitted to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and posted on the Oversight Committee's website.
3. The District is directed to track the above recommendation and to report on the adoption, rejection, or pending status of the recommendations as provided in section 6.2 of the Charter and Memorandum of Understanding between the Oversight Committee and the District.

ADOPTED on April 28, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: 9

ABSTENTIONS: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENCES: 6

/Rachel Greene/

Rachel Greene  
Chair

/Chris Hannan/

Chris Hannan  
Vice-Chair



## Board of Education Report

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**File #:** Rep-295-21/22, **Version:** 1

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### **Define and Approve Five Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein**

**May 10, 2022**

#### **Facilities Services Division and Early Childhood Education Division**

#### **Action Proposed:**

Define and approve five Early Education Center (EEC) outdoor classroom and campus upgrade projects at the following schools and amend the Facilities Services Division (Facilities) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to incorporate therein. The total combined budget for the projects as described in Attachment A is \$21,865,989.

1. 36<sup>th</sup> Street EEC
2. Hyde Park EEC
3. Cleveland EEC
4. Vine EEC
5. Hobart Blvd. EEC

Authorize the Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Chief Facilities Executive and/or their designee(s) to execute all instruments necessary, as legally permissible, to implement the proposed projects, including budget modifications and the purchase of equipment and materials.

#### **Background:**

The Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified or District) School Upgrade Program includes a spending target entitled "*Build New and Repair Aging Early Childhood Education Centers to Promote Learning for Youngest Students.*" Projects developed under this category of need are included in the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan.

Staff's proposal includes five outdoor classroom and campus upgrade projects, as described in Attachment A. These projects will create field-tested, research-based outdoor learning spaces that provide learning opportunities and support children's interaction with the natural world, as well as provide upgrades to school building/site systems that have reached or exceeded their service life.

Early Education Center outdoor classrooms will be designed to enable the District's youngest learners to acquire a deep, intuitive understanding of the natural world through hands-on experiences. Each outdoor classroom will include a number of learning stations with the following components:

- Large-motor activities learning station
- Climbing/crawling learning station
- Messy materials learning station
- Building block learning station
- Nature art learning station
- Music and movement learning station

- Planting garden/pathway through planting learning station
- Gathering learning station
- Materials storage learning station

Construction of outdoor classrooms will convert a part of existing asphalt and playground areas into dynamic nature-based learning environments. The scope of work includes Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades, and any other required improvements or mitigations to ensure compliance with local, state, and/or federal facilities requirements.

The proposed projects include campus upgrades to address aging, deteriorating systems that have reached and/or exceeded their service life. Upgrades include new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and roofing systems, fire alarm and ADA accessibility upgrades, and new playground matting.

**Expected Outcomes:**

Staff anticipates the Board of Education will define and approve five EEC outdoor classroom and campus upgrade projects, as described in Attachment A, and amend the Facilities SEP to incorporate therein. Approval will authorize staff to proceed with the implementation of the proposed projects.

**Board Options and Consequences:**

Adoption of the proposed action will authorize staff to proceed with the expenditure of Bond Program funds to implement the proposed projects. If staff's proposal is not approved, Bond funds will not be expended, access to nature-based green space will remain limited, and early education facilities needs will remain unaddressed.

**Policy Implications:**

This action is consistent with the District's commitment to address unmet school facilities needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment.

**Budget Impact:**

The total combined budget for the projects is \$21,865,989. The projects will be funded with Bond Program funds earmarked specifically for Early Childhood Education facilities upgrades and expansions.

Each project budget was prepared based on the current information known, and assumptions about, the project scope, site conditions, and market conditions. Individual project budgets will be reviewed throughout the planning, design, and construction phases as new information becomes known or unforeseen conditions arise and will be adjusted accordingly to enable the successful completion of each project.

**Student Impact:**

The five outdoor classroom and campus upgrade projects will establish nurturing, nature-based outdoor spaces that support whole-child development and learning, as well as address early education facilities needs that are necessary to improve student health, safety, and educational quality.

Expected developmental outcomes include enhanced imaginative play, increased physical and mental well-being, and environmental stewardship. These outdoor classrooms will encourage and support community, student and parent engagement through the creation of partnerships that help establish and maintain the newly developed garden spaces. These spaces can also reduce stress for staff, families and children. Children and their parents will be able to connect with the natural world as a regular part of their healthy growth and development in the areas that lack parks and green environments.

Over the past 12 years, the Early Childhood Education Division has worked closely with the Arbor Day Foundation, the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation, and Nature Explore - all non-profit organizations - to evaluate the benefits of implementing such programs at Los Angeles Unified. Experience has demonstrated that children benefit most from these programs when parents, administrators, and staff have received adequate training and support on the optimal use of outdoor classrooms. To maximize the potential benefits and ensure the success of the instructional programs, the Early Childhood Education Division, together with these non-profit organizations, will offer training on the use and maintenance of outdoor classrooms to EEC administrators, staff, and parents. Training to support learning in the natural environment, visual-spatial learning, and sustaining the outdoor classroom will be offered. Family training and activities for parents, involving their children in nature and in the outdoor classroom, will also be provided.

**Issues and Analysis:**

Staff's proposal supports the Early Childhood Education Division's commitment to providing a quality early education experience that will prepare students for success in school and life, while valuing and respecting the needs, languages, and cultures of all students, families, staff, and respective communities.

The proposed projects were identified by the Early Childhood Education Division in consultation with Local District and school site administrators. Sites were selected based upon the responses received to questionnaires sent to all EECs, each center's proximity and access to existing community green space, and evidence of parent, administrator, and staff commitment to the success of the program. Other factors considered included income level, center enrollment, community interest, and demographics.

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety will evaluate the project proposals in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act to ensure compliance. If, through the planning and design process, it is determined that the proposed project scope(s) will not sufficiently address the facilities needs identified, the project scope, schedule, and budget will be revised accordingly.

**Bond Oversight Committee Recommendation:**

This item was considered by the School Construction Bond Citizen's Oversight Committee (BOC) at its meeting on April 28, 2022. Staff has concluded that this proposed Facilities SEP amendment is in alignment with BOC recommendations and will facilitate Los Angeles Unified's ability to successfully implement the Facilities SEP.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Five Early Education Center Projects

Attachment B: BOC Resolution

**Informatives:**

None.

**Submitted:**

4/22/22



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Report**  
**Attachment A**

**1. 36<sup>th</sup> Street Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project**

- *Local District West, Board District 1 – McKenna*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom, with at least 10 learning stations, by dividing the existing playground into distinct activity areas covering 6,075 square feet. It will also provide new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) units, new roofing, new playground matting, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades will include an accessible path of travel and restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget:* \$2,618,102
- *Construction Schedule:* Q2 2024 – Q3 2025

**2. Hyde Park Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project**

- *Local District West, Board District 1 – McKenna*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom, with at least 10 learning stations, by dividing the existing playground into distinct activity areas covering 29,420 square feet. It will also provide new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) units, new roofing, new playground matting, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel and restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget:* \$5,424,388
- *Construction Schedule:* Q2 2024 – Q3 2025

**3. Cleveland Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project**

- *Local District Northwest, Board District 3 – Schmerelson*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom, with at least 10 learning stations, by dividing the existing playground into distinct activity areas covering 20,350 square feet. It will also provide new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) units, new roofing, new playground matting, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel and restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget:* \$4,862,530
- *Construction Schedule:* Q2 2024 – Q3 2025

**4. Vine Street Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project**

- *Local District West, Board District 4 – Melvoin*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom, with at least 10 learning stations, by dividing the existing playground into distinct activity areas covering 22,030 square feet. It will also provide new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) units, new roofing, new playground matting, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel and restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget:* \$5,028,417
- *Construction Schedule:* Q2 2024 – Q3 2025



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Report**  
**Attachment A**

**5. Hobart Blvd. Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom and Campus Upgrade Project**

- *Local District Central, Board District 5 – Goldberg*
- *Project Scope* – This project will provide an outdoor classroom, with at least 10 learning stations, by dividing the existing playground into distinct activity areas covering 11,100 square feet. It will also provide new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) units, new playground matting, and necessary upgrades to the fire alarm system. ADA upgrades will include an accessible path of travel and restroom and drinking water station upgrades.
- *Project Budget:* \$3,932,552
- *Construction Schedule:* Q2 2024 – Q3 2025