

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Report



Report Number:	197-12/13
Date:	March 19, 2013
Subject:	Amendment to the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Define and Approve Early Education Center Nature Explore Classroom Projects
Responsible Staff:	Mark Hovatter, Chief Facilities Executive
Name	Maureen Diekmann, Executive Director, Early Childhood Education
Office/Division	Facilities Services Division Division of Early Education
Telephone No.	213-241-4811 213-241-4713

BOARD REPORT

Action Proposed: Staff proposes that the Board of Education amend the Facilities Services Division (FSD) Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) to define and approve eight Early Education Center (EEC) Nature Explore Classroom projects as listed in Attachment A. The total combined budget for these projects is \$6,615,717.

Background: Early Education Center Nature Explore Classrooms are designed to enable the District's youngest learners to acquire a deep intuitive understanding of the natural world through hands-on experiences. Each Nature Explore Classroom project will include a number of learning stations with the following elements:

- 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

The eight proposed projects were identified in consultation with local Educational Service Centers (ESC) and site administrators. Sites were selected based upon the responses received to questionnaires sent to all EECs, and each center's proximity and access to existing green space and



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evidence of parent, administrator and staff commitment to the success of the program.

Construction of these eight EEC Nature Explore Classroom projects will allow the District to convert part of existing asphalt and playground area into dynamic nature-based learning environments. 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.

- Expected Outcomes:** Approval of this proposed action will enable staff to proceed with the design and construction of the eight proposed EEC Nature Explore Classroom projects.
- Board Options and Consequences:** Approval of the proposed action will enable staff to design and construct eight EEC Nature Explore Classroom projects. These projects will convert existing asphalt and playground area into dynamic nature-based learning environments.
- If the proposed action is not approved, the design and construction of eight EEC Nature Explore classroom projects will not be performed and access to any nature-based green space will remain limited.
- Policy Implications:** This action is consistent with the District's commitment to provide new and modernize and repair existing EECs as outlined in Measures K, R, and Y.
- Budget Impact:** The proposed EEC Nature Explore Classroom projects will be funded by \$6,615,717 of Bond Program Funds earmarked specifically for Early Childhood Education facilities.
- Issues and Analysis:** Over the past three years, the Early Childhood Education Division (ECED) 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 a program at LAUSD. Past experience has demonstrated that children benefit most from these programs when the parents, administrators and center staff have received adequate training and support on the optimal use of Nature Explore Classrooms. In order to maximize the potential benefits and ensure the success of the instructional program that will be made possible with the completion of these proposed projects, ECED in conjunction with the above listed non-profit organizations, will offer training on the use and maintenance of these Nature Explore Classrooms



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to center administrators, staff and parents.

**Bond Oversight
Committee
Recommendation:**

This item will be considered by the School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee (BOC) at its meeting on February 20, 2013. The BOC adopted the attachment resolution by a vote of eight ayes and zero nays.

Staff has concluded that this proposed SEP amendment will help facilitate implementation of the SEP, and therefore, it will not adversely affect the District's ability to successfully complete the SEP.

Attachments:

- *Attachment A* -- Eight EEC Nature Explore Classroom projects
- BOC Resolution

☐ **Informative**

None

☐ **Desegregation
Impact Statement**

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,


 DR. JOHN E. DEASY
 Superintendent

APPROVED BY:



MICHELLE KING
 Senior Deputy Superintendent
 School Operations

APPROVED BY:



MARK HOVATTER
 Chief Facilities Executive
 Facilities Services Division

REVIEWED BY:



DAVID HOLMQUIST
 General Counsel

☒ Approved as to form.



TONY ATIENZA
 Director of Budget Services and Financial
 Planning

☒ Approved as to budget impact statement.

PRESENTED BY:



BILL WHERRITT
 Deputy Director of Program Support
 Facilities Services Division



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ATTACHMENT A

EEC	Project Scope	BD	ESC	Project Budget	Anticipated Construction Start	Anticipated Project Completion
66TH STREET EEC	Design and construct new nature explore classroom including required fire alarm and restroom accessibility upgrades.	7	S	\$780,054	Q4-2014	Q3-2015
ARMINTA EEC	Design and construct new nature explore classroom including required fire alarm upgrades, and accessibility upgrades to restroom, and parking lot and installation of new drinking fountain and pedestrian gate.	6	N	\$1,340,596	Q4-2014	Q3-2015
CANOGA PARK EEC	Design and construct new nature explore classroom including required fire alarm upgrades.	3	N	\$803,859	Q4-2014	Q3-2015
ESCALANTE EEC	Design and construct new nature explore classroom.	5	S	\$425,982	Q4-2014	Q3-2015
GARDENA EEC	Design and construct new nature explore classroom including required fire alarm upgrades, and accessibility upgrades to restroom, and parking lot and installation of new drinking fountain and pedestrian gate.	7	S	\$862,460	Q4-2014	Q3-2015
MARINA EEC	Design and construct new nature explore classroom including required fire alarm upgrades and accessibility upgrades to restrooms and installation of new entry access gates.	4	W	\$896,426	Q4-2014	Q3-2015
WANDA MIKES EEC	Design and construct new nature explore classroom including required fire alarm and restroom accessibility upgrades.	1	S	\$724,888	Q4-2014	Q3-2015
TRINITY EEC	Design and construct new nature explore classroom including required fire alarm upgrades, installation of new eight-foot barrier wall, and accessibility upgrades to restrooms and parking lot and installation of new drinking fountain and pedestrian gates.	2	E	\$781,452	Q4-2014	Q3-2015

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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L.A. City Controller's Office

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Early Education Coalition

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L.A. Mayor's Office

Joseph P. Buchman – Legal Counsel
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Thomas A. Rubin, CPA
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RESOLUTION 2013-05

BOARD REPORT NO. 197-12/13

**AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN
TO DEFINE AND APPROVE EARLY EDUCATION CENTER NATURE EXPLORE
CLASSROOM PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, This action is consistent with the District's commitment to provide additional capacity for early childhood education students, and improve the conditions of existing Early Childhood Education facilities as outlined in Measures K, R, and Y; and

WHEREAS, Projects are developed at the discretion of the Board District or Educational Service Center with support from Facilities Services Division staff and input from school administrators. All projects must be capital in nature and adhere to bond language and laws; and

WHEREAS, The eight projects proposed in this Board Report will upgrade, modernize and/or enhance the learning environment for students. The projects include various modernizations, and upgrade scopes of work. The total combined budget for these projects is \$6,615,717; and

WHEREAS, funding for the eight proposed Early Education Center Nature Explore Classroom Projects will come from Bond Program Funds (Measure R) earmarked specifically for ECE facilities (\$6,615,717);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1- The School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee recommends that the Board of Education adopt an amendment to the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to define and approve eight Early Education Center Nature Explore Classroom projects as described in attached Board Report No. 197-12/13.

Bond Oversight Committee

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RESOLUTION 2013-05**AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITIES SERVICES STRATEGIC EXECUTION PLAN
TO DEFINE AND APPROVE EARLY EDUCATION CENTER NATURE EXPLORE
CLASSROOM PROJECTS****Page-2**

- 2- This resolution shall be transmitted to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and posted on the Bond Oversight Committee's website.
- 3- That a written response as required by the Charter and Memorandum of Understanding between the Oversight Committee and the Board be provided to the Oversight Committee within 30 days, reporting either on action taken or proposed to be taken in response to this resolution and each recommendation herein.

ADOPTED on February 20, 2013 by the following vote:

AYES: 8

ABSTAIN: 0

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 7


Stephen English
Chair


Pamela Schmidt
Vice Chair