Measure K Facilities Update – November 17, 2026

Overview

Downey Unified School District provided an update on Measure K facilities improvements, including progress on Phase 1 construction, plans for Phase 2 elementary school projects, future facilities priorities, and the District's long-term bond issuance strategy. Phase 1 currently includes Carpenter Elementary School, Garcia Elementary School, Rio Hondo Elementary School, and Rio San Gabriel Elementary School.

Phase 1 Project Updates

Rio Hondo Elementary School

Work continuing after summer 2026 includes the new Library/Innovation building and parking lot/site improvements. Parking, playground reconfiguration, and grass/walkway improvements are expected during winter 2026–27, with the Library/Innovation building scheduled for completion in spring 2027. Kitchen modernization and lunch shelter work are planned for summer 2027, while renovation of the existing administration building remains pending.

Rio San Gabriel Elementary School

Projects include a new administration building, classroom construction, kitchen modernization, site improvements, and playground enhancements. The new classroom building was reconfigured from five classrooms to two TK/K classrooms and one regular-sized classroom, with additional multi-stall and staff restrooms. Plans also add district-standard playground equipment, including an Aeroglider, sensory house, instruments, and swings.

The bio-retention area, field, and full drop-off lane are scheduled for winter 2026–27; kitchen renovation is scheduled for February 2027; and new administration and classroom buildings are planned for summer 2027. Additional summer work includes lunch shelters, exterior painting, and a decorative screen.

Garcia Elementary School

Construction continues on the TK/K Village, administration building, classroom buildings, parking areas, playgrounds, and kitchen. The existing parking lot is scheduled for completion in November 2026, followed by the TK/K Village during winter break and the new administration building and parking lot by spring break. New classroom buildings are planned for summer 2027, along with primary playground and kitchen work.

Carpenter Elementary School

Following previously completed modernization and parking improvements, ongoing work includes a new administration building, TK/K Village, classroom construction, and kitchen modernization. The new administration and classroom buildings and new parking lot are planned for spring break 2027. Summer 2027 work includes kitchen renovation, removal of portable classrooms, playground improvements, and renovation of the existing administration and Library/Innovation spaces.

Future Facilities Phases

The District presented a long-term facilities timeline extending through the 2031–32 school year. Phase 2 identifies Price Elementary School, Alameda Elementary School, and Williams Elementary School as the next sites, with layouts presented for each campus. Later phases continue through 2031–32 and include a future Warren High School Career Technical Education building.

The District identified five priorities for future phases:

- TK/K villages
- Parking lots and drop-off areas
- Removal of portable classrooms and replacement with permanent classrooms
- Repurposing existing classroom spaces
- New furniture for entire school sites

Additional modernization work is anticipated with future Measure K bond issuances.

Bond Issuance and Assessed Valuation

The District's 2026–27 assessed valuation increased 3.92% from the prior year to approximately $18.45 billion.

The presentation included a Measure K financing scenario based on approximately 4.25% annual assessed valuation growth, a 5.25% assumed interest rate, and a tax rate of $60 per $100,000 of assessed value. Under those illustrative assumptions, the District could access Measure K bond funding approximately every three years through 2042. The presentation notes that issuance timing and amounts are illustrative and would depend on project needs and market conditions.

Long-Term Facilities Strategy

The presentation also introduced a broader facilities objective: eliminating the use of portable classrooms as daily classrooms for Downey Unified students. Currently, the presentation identifies 52 portable classrooms at the District's high schools, including 17 at Downey High School, 14 at Warren High School, and 21 at Columbus High School.

The District also identified approximately $173.6 million in potential state funding, consisting of $98.6 million in modernization matching funds and $75 million in new construction funding. The presentation raises consideration of whether a future local bond could help leverage those state funds to advance the District's long-term facilities priorities.

Next Steps

Downey Unified will continue Phase 1 construction, advance planning for the Phase 2 elementary school sites, and evaluate future project phasing and financing options. The District's long-term strategy remains focused on modernizing campuses, replacing portable classrooms with permanent facilities, improving TK/K and instructional spaces, and maximizing available state and local funding for future facilities improvements.