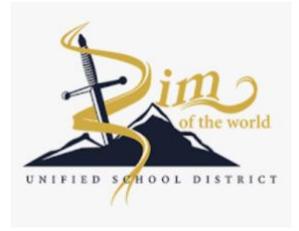


# Rim of the World Unified School District Fact Sheet: School Facility Needs

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October 2019

**Background:** Our Rim of the World Unified School District (Rim USD) schools serve an essential community need. As the local provider of K-12 public education, we have **two key priorities**: first, to ensure academic success for every student; and second, to make sure that our school campuses are healthy, safe, secure, technologically current, well maintained and equipped to provide students with the *very best* educational setting possible. Adequate facilities and technology are essential to maintaining the quality of education here on the mountain.

Accordingly, this year we have been taking inventory and evaluating our most urgent school facilities needs — including classroom and lab structures, equipment, educational technology, Career Technical Education (CTE) and student support facilities at every Rim of the World USD school site.

**FACT:** The current state of our classrooms, labs, technology and facilities is adversely impacting teaching and learning. We have identified nearly \$ 75 million in unmet facility needs. District staff work hard to maintain our school facilities and keep them in good working condition with limited resources. However, the reality is that the types of repairs and upgrades that our schools need go beyond the scope and means of regular school maintenance budgets.

**Our most urgent facilities NEEDS are:**

- **Aging, outdated classrooms and labs** for core subjects like science, math, technology, engineering, and arts.
- **Old science and engineering labs and career training facilities** that don't meet current standards for college and in-demand career training in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology, and skilled trades. We especially need smart boards and more technology at our middle/high schools.
- **Deteriorated school facilities** – roofs, flooring, insulation, plumbing, HVAC, electrical systems and restrooms. Heating systems at all our schools need manual daily adjustments during the winter!
- **Inadequate electrical systems** to support 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom instructional technology.
- **Aging safety systems** - fire alarm emergency communication systems, security alarms, fencing and exterior lighting for student security and safety. We need keyless entries to our classrooms.

Our school district makes every effort to use resources wisely. With limited help from the State and our school facility and technology needs growing everyday, we need to work together as a community to protect our local quality of education. We are exploring all available potential solutions to meet these needs – including State matching funds and private grants. As part of this process, we are also exploring the feasibility of seeking community support for a local school bond. School bonds are **the** established and most common way to fund the upgrades our schools need.

**Next Steps:** Our School Board will be voting on whether or not to call for a local school bond election at an upcoming meeting prior to December 6<sup>th</sup>, the state filing deadline to qualify for the March 2020 ballot. (Stay tuned for updates on an exact Board meeting date.) The District last asked voters to support a local school bond in November 2008, more than a decade ago. To provide an affordable solution for today's needed school repairs and upgrades, it is the District's intention to address individual school needs while also striving to achieve equity among all school sites so ALL local public schools here on the mountain provide the same quality education.

**Join the conversation! We welcome community input in this process.**

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