



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

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Study Shows Link between School Performance and Property Values

*Passage of school renovation and improvement bonds increases home values
38 times over actual cost of bond assessment*

ORANGE, CA – April 17, 2014 – A report to be released at Thursday's Orange Unified School District (OUSD) Board of Education meeting shows distinct and significant links between school performance, the passage of school bonds, and increased home and property values.

The report, prepared by CP Appraisers of Orange, was requested by the District as part of its on-going decision making process addressing the best way to improve high school facilities in OUSD. Part of that process has included a discussion about the potential impact of a bond, the proceeds of which could be dedicated to the improvement, renovation, repair and the expansion of key facilities at the four high schools.

"The value added to the average home value is estimated to be approximately 38 times greater than the average cost of the bond," over the initial six-year period, the report states.

The report also cited multiple national and regional studies that show a direct link between higher property values and school performance and that school quality is one of the more important factors families consider when choosing a new home.

The study specifically compared OUSD to the Tustin Unified School District, which has passed a trio of school improvement bonds in the past decade. Even factoring in the recent recession, per-square-foot home values increased at a higher rate in Tustin Unified than in OUSD.

"This study will play an important role in future discussions as the District considers all of its options," said OUSD Superintendent Michael Christensen. "We will be making as much information as possible available to the public so that we, together as a community, can make the right choices for the future of our children."

The full report will be discussed at Thursday's Board meeting.

For more information about Orange Unified School District and its 21st Century Learning Facility program, visit www.orangeusd.org.

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The Orange Unified School District educates approximately 30,000 students in the Cities of Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and county areas. The school district, founded in 1953, encompasses 108 square miles. The District office is located at 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, California.