

NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Valencia Valley Elementary School

Fencing Project FAQs

Why is the fence essential to protect students, staff and volunteers?

A fence offers an added layer of security that can help slow down an intruder, giving students and adults precious seconds to shelter in place. Fencing was recommended after an extensive analysis by a security expert. Additionally, the head of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Santa Clarita bureau, Captain Robert Lewis, recommended a fence. There were other recommendations by the security expert, including improved lighting and security cameras, but these additional measures were recommended as *secondary priorities* to the fence. That is, *they are not considered effective alternatives* to the fence but rather complementary. The Governing Board will consider additional security measures for VV and for all schools as funds become available.

What type of fencing will be constructed?

The Governing Board approved an 8' black, decorative iron fence. The same type of fencing was recently installed at **Pico, Newhall and Meadows elementary schools**. Valencia Valley is the only school in the district (and in the Santa Clarita Valley) that is not fenced. Please note that the color cannot be changed as the manufacturer would not warranty a different color.

Where can I see a rendering of the fence layout?

A rendering of the layout is available in the Safety and Security section of the District's website at www.newhallschooldistrict.net. Click on Safety and Security and you will find the link. Further, a copy of the rendering can be obtained in the VV office. The layout was finalized and approved by the board on January 23, 2018. Gate placement not only takes into account convenient ingress and egress but also conforms to fire safety requirements.

Why will there be no fencing in the front of campus?

After assessing the site, the Board determined that the building already forms a physical barrier in the front and on the Mendoza Drive side of the school. This is the same configuration used at Newhall and Pico elementary schools. The doors in the front and on the side are currently locked throughout the day and will remain locked after the fence is constructed.

Will the local community have access afterhours?

Yes. Access to the site will be available until 11:00 p.m. weekdays and will be accessible on weekends. Individuals and families will have access without having to obtain a Facilities Use Agreement. Organized group activities (e.g., athletic teams) will still be required to have an approved Facilities Use Agreement in accordance with the Civic Center Act. The Board has noted that, should it see recurring incidents of vandalism and other unlawful behavior, it will reconsider its decision to keep the site open afterhours.

Will the perimeter gates be open during the school day?

No. Gates will be locked and all entry will be through the school's main entrance (secured access through video intercom) on Carrizo Drive.

Will the Board consider additional security measures?

Yes. Other safety considerations include: additional lighting, security cameras, intrusion alarm systems, vehicle intrusion barriers and entry way modifications. As funds become available, options will be considered for *all* school sites. The district is currently piloting a “visitor management system” (to screen and monitor adults [e.g., volunteers, contractors] who visit the campus) and a mass notification system (to facilitate communication with parents and staff).