



Hughson high school getting a facelift

By MICHELLE HATFIELD

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HUGHSON -- High school students will soon see some upgrades at their 97-year-old campus.

Officials have approved construction projects that will improve handicap access to buildings, renovate classrooms, demolish out-of-date portable classrooms and modernize electrical systems connected to fire alarms and telephones, said Brian Beck, superintendent of the Hughson Unified School District. Some of the work has started.

"These are 50-plus year-old buildings," Beck said.

The four phases are:

- Handicap accessibility** -- Renovating employee bathrooms, replacing door frames, adding ramps and handrails, and modifying a parking lot.
- Classroom upgrades** -- Removing and reinstalling a building T-bar, painting interior walls and ceilings, and replacing windows, seats and lockers.
- Exterior** -- Tearing down classroom building A, an out-of-date set of portables, Beck said.
- Electrical** -- Installing new fire, data and telephone systems.

The project's cost is \$1.9 million and will come from the district's 2004 \$14.3 million school bond and state construction funds.

Officials plan to do more district-wide upgrades in the next few years. That includes asking the voters for another school bond at some point, Beck said.

Hughson High enrolls 780 students from the city as well as surrounding communities such as Hickman, Graton, Roberts Ferry and La Grange.