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High school receives \$1.9 million Grant to be used for music room on Sierra Vista campus

By Amanda Baumfeld, Staff Writer
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BALDWIN PARK - Sierra Vista High School was awarded an additional \$1.9 million in grant monies that will be used to construct a state-of-the-art music room, officials said.

The money comes from the State Allocation Board. The board matched money that was already spent from Measure K bonds, said Gregory Scott, senior director of business services for the Baldwin Park Unified School District.

The \$76 million bond measure was approved by voters in November 2006 for the construction and rehabilitation of district schools.

Sierra Vista students currently hold rehearsals for band, orchestra and chorus outside, said Superintendent Mark Skvarna. They have no music room.

"The district is trying to accentuate on the arts," Skvarna said. "A lot of times they are out on the field practicing; we need to have a temporary facility for them."

Construction began on the \$4 million building about six months ago and is expected to be complete in January.

It will be able to service the choral program as well as band and orchestra.

It will be a "green" friendly building with solar panels, special lighting and air conditioning, officials said.

With music students having no place to call their own the music room is a necessity, said Scott.

"At each of our high schools, the music program is a very important and very popular program," Scott said. "These kinds of programs give a student a well-rounded education."

A similar music room was built at Baldwin Park High School about five years ago, he added.

The bond money has enabled the district to build new football stadiums at both high schools, modernize the gym at Sierra Vista and build a new field house at Baldwin Park High School.

"We are just happy to expand these programs," Skvarna said. "Many of these buildings are highly energy efficient and more open and more accessible to everyone."