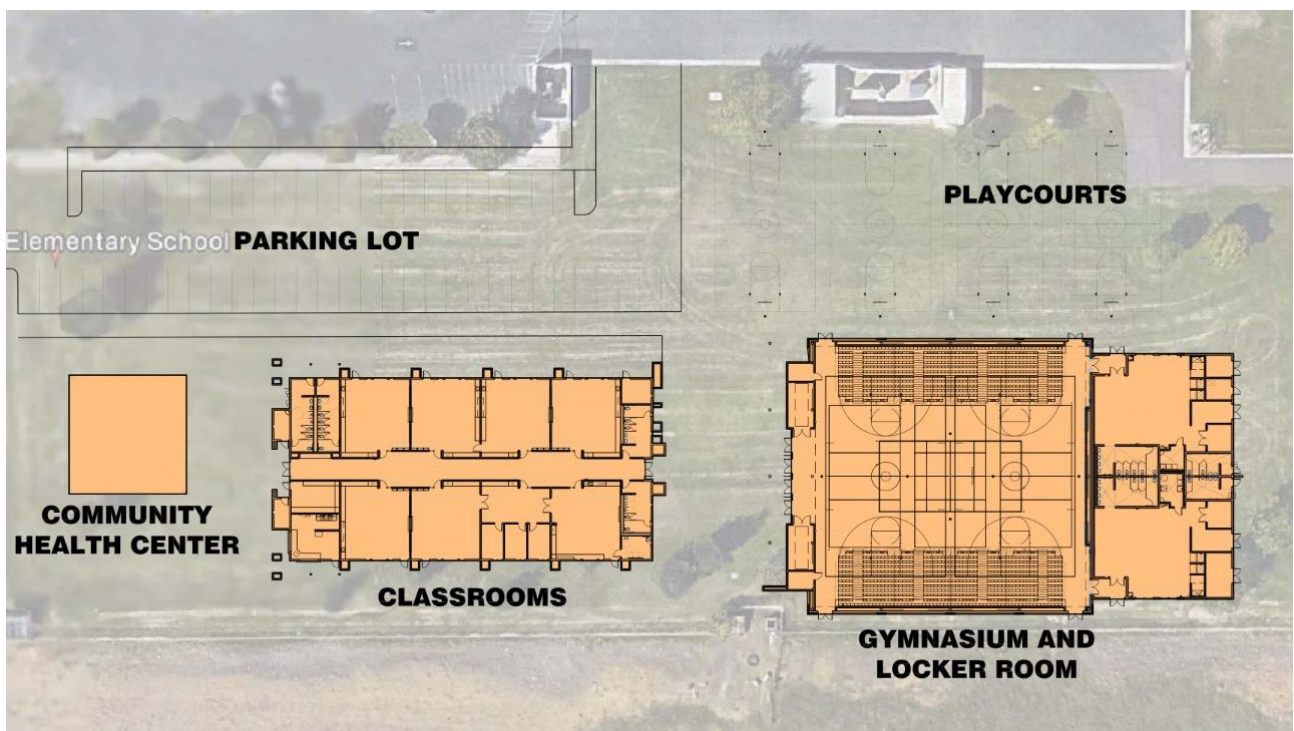


Request: \$7.3 million to create an Educational Center for Community Advancement in rural Merced.

Description: The Franklin-Beachwood project consists of a multi-agency partnership to provide the following resources for an unincorporated area north of Merced known as the Franklin/Beachwood community:

- Joint-use gymnasium and community center at Stefani Elementary School
- Health resource center (medical and dental)
- Safe routes to both local elementary schools
- Joint-use playground



Necessity: The Franklin/Beachwood community has high rates of poverty, violence and gang activity with low educational attainment rates. It is home to two schools with higher than average populations of English Learners. In fact, statistics for the 2015-2016 school year show more than 86% of students at Stefani Elementary School are either English Learners or “low income.” With that said, there is a growing collaboration of families and community members joining together to garner support and resources to provide their children with a quality education, safe environment, and improved quality of life for residents of the area.

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