

MEASURE A

2016-2017 STAFF

REPORT

**Published by the
AUSD Business Services Department
January 17, 2018**



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INTRODUCTION

Passed in March 2011, Measure A has become intrinsic to the funding of high-quality programs in Alameda Unified School District (AUSD). With its emphasis on preserving highly valued programs – such as arts, sports, small class sizes, neighborhood elementary schools, academic programs for both struggling and high-achieving students, and attracting and retaining excellent teachers – Measure A allows AUSD to continue to support students and staff despite funding fluctuations at the state and federal levels.

The 2016 passage of Measure B1, which extends Measure A, underscores the importance of these programs to the culture and accomplishments of our school district. Seventy-nine percent of eligible Alamedans voted in the national election November 8, 2016. Nearly 74% of them voted for Measure B1. This is the highest percentage of votes that any parcel tax has ever received in Alameda. We take that as a clear indication that the community of Alameda supports raising and using local funding to support our students, our schools, and these programs.

Over the last six years, Measure A's \$12 million in annual revenue has provided the second largest source of revenue to the district. Integral to the management, oversight, and transparency of this crucial local funding are the annual reports submitted to the Board of Education from both district staff and the Measure A Oversight Committee. The following report summarizes Measure A revenues and expenditures for the **2016-17** school (and fiscal) year.

Since 2011, Measure A revenues have helped AUSD:

Protect key programs such as: 25:1 in K-3 classrooms; enrichment programs (including libraries and art classes); counseling and student support services; and high school athletic opportunities;

Provide resources to improve instruction for all students, both through our K-12 math initiative and by increasing the number of teachers trained and participating in innovative English and science curricula; and

Protect other core values, including: maintaining neighborhood elementary schools; investing in technology and technology services; launching innovative and magnet programs; and attracting and retaining excellent teachers.



Measure A History

Measure A, a \$12 million per year parcel tax designed to support core values and programs in the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD), was approved in the wake of massive cuts in state funding for public schools. Those cuts resulted in AUSD losing more than 20% of its “unrestricted” funding and about 20% of its “categorical” (or “restricted”) funding. To balance its budget during this time, the district also sharply reduced its expenditures, including a \$7 million cut in 2010-2011 alone.

While Measure A couldn't protect AUSD from the full impact of state cuts during the recession, this local tax enabled the district to weather that fiscal storm in ways that other districts could not. Indeed, since 2011 AUSD has not had to enact the lay-offs, furloughs, pay cuts, or program losses that so many other districts in California put in place to weather funding fluctuations. (Increased funding under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which the state adopted in 2013, cannot pay for Measure A programs as most of those LCFF funds are earmarked by the state for other programs.)

In short, Measure A has allowed AUSD to continue the critical work to which we are all committed: providing excellence and equity for all students in the Alameda Unified School District.

For more information on Measure A's history and scope, please go to <http://www.alameda.k12.ca.us/measurea>.

2016-17 Measure A Oversight Committee Members

- Kathryn Saulsgiver, PhD (Chair)
- Jose Alvarez
- David Anstice
- Doug Biggs
- Roxanne Clement
- Robert Gabriel
- Nilo Garcia
- Carrie Hahnel
- Christina Johnson
- Bob Kreitz
- Steven Smith

The 2016-17 Oversight Committee will meet through the fall of 2017. The 2017-2018 Committee will begin meeting in January, 2018.

Measure A Oversight Committee

Measure A stipulated that a "District Oversight Committee" be created to "annually review District compliance with the terms of this Measure." The Measure also mandated that the Board of Education "set the size, structure, and scope of duties of the Oversight Committee."

To fulfill this requirement, the Board on June 14, 2011 adopted Board Policy 3221 (Parcel Tax Funds), which calls for an 11-member committee representing diverse interests of parents/guardians, staff members, students, and community members from all attendance areas in the District.

Since 2011, an 11-member Oversight Committee has reviewed Measure A revenues and expenditures, as well as made suggestions on how to increase the transparency of and better communicate the results of the program.

The 2016-17 Measure A Oversight Committee asked for expanded details on the parcel tax program, including the amount of Measure A revenue that each school receives, a list of the items for which the tax pays at each school, and comparisons of spending patterns between AUSD and other local districts. We are grateful to the committee's thoughtful work this year, as well as their support for staff work.

Measure A Oversight Committee Meetings

In addition to staff presentations to the Board, the 2016-17 Measure A Oversight Committee met in open, noticed, public meetings on the following dates:

- February 1, 2017
- April 13, 2017
- June 1, 2017
- September 21, 2017
- Nov. 9, 2017
- Dec. 6, 2017
- January 16, 2017

Agendas, minutes, and supporting documents for these meetings are available on the [Measure A Oversight Committee page](#).

Measure A Meetings and Presentations

AUSD Board Policy 3221 (Parcel Tax Funds) requires that district staff generate three reports about Measure A annually.

For the 2016-2017 school year, staff gave the following four presentations about Measure A to the Board of Education:

September 27, 2016 [Superintendent's Recommendations to Appoint Members to 2016-2017 Measure A Oversight Committee](#)

January 24, 2017: [2015-16 Measure A Annual Staff Report and Measure A Annual Oversight Committee Report](#)

June 13, 2017: [Public Hearing of Budget Proposal 2017-2018](#)

June 27 2017: The Board approved those allocation recommendations as part of [Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018](#).

Staff will present the 2016-2017 Measure A Annual Staff Report to the Board of Education in December, 2017. The chair of the oversight committee will present the committee's report at the same meeting. Both reports will then be posted to the [AUSD Measure A website](#), as they have for the past 6 years.

At the request of the committee, a sample of parcel tax expenditures was tested by the auditor as part of the general audit of district finances this year. The auditor's report is available on our website, on the "[District Financial Information](#)" page.

Measure A Structure

Under Measure A, residential and commercial property owners pay \$0.32 per building square foot. The tax is capped at \$7999 per parcel. Property without buildings pays a flat tax of \$299 per parcel.

A property that is the primary residence of a community member aged 65 or older or who receives Social Security Income for a disability is exempt from the parcel tax.

2016-17 Measure A Revenues

The actual amount of parcel tax revenue received in 2016-17 was slightly higher than what was predicted.

Specifically, in June 2016, when the Board adopted its 2016-17 budget (including specific allocations for Measure A for that year), the District projected that Measure A would generate revenues of \$12,091,628 that fiscal year. This projection was based on tax information from Alameda County.

At the time of unaudited actuals (“closing of the books” for 2016-17) in September 2017, the actual revenues from Measure A for 2016-17 were \$12,246,838.

These revenues consisted of:

Amount	Category
\$12,117,378	2016-17 payments
\$60,525	Possessory Interest on government property
\$27,181	Late payments from 2015-16

2016-2017 Measure A Allocations and Expenditures

The amounts allocated for Measure A's expenditure categories (in the ballot measure), as well as the actual revenue spent per category in 2016-17, are shown below.

Item #	Expenditure Category	Percent Allocated (Measure A)	Percent Spent (2016-17)	Actual Expenditure (2016-17)
1	Small Class Sizes K-3 •Maintaining 25:1 K-3 class size	13-14%	14.2%	\$1,712,250
2	Neighborhood Elementary Schools •Maintaining Franklin, Otis, and Maya Lin School ¹	7-8%	7.2%	\$872,413
3	Secondary School Choice Initiative and AP Courses •EHS 8 AP Sections •AHS 9 AP Sections •ASTI (maintaining small class sizes) 2 FTE ² •Island (maintaining small class sizes) 4 FTE	7-8%	7.0%	\$844,919
4	Programs to Close Achievement Gap •JROTC •Partial math, SIM, & IBD initiatives •Restore 5 days of instruction ³ •SIM Initiative •Bay Science (BaySci)	15-16%	16.1%	\$1,989,502
5	High School Athletic Programs •Coach stipends •Athletic supplies •Outside services	4%	4%	\$482,810
6	Enrichment Programs •Elementary schools - music, PE, and libraries •Middle schools - 4 Fine Art sections •High schools - 10 Fine Art sections	9-10%	9.8%	\$1,178,371
7	Attract and retain excellent teachers •Maintenance of current AEA salary schedule	25-26%	27.7%	\$3,344,267
8	Counseling and student support services •Counselors: 8 FTE •College Career Techs: .8 FTE	6%	5.1%	\$724,471
9	Alameda Charter Students	3-4%	3%	\$361,531
10	Technology •Equipment •3.5 FTE	5%	5%	\$609,943
11	Adult Education	4%	0% ⁴	0
	Accountability and Transparency	1.5-2%	1.1%	\$134,810
	Total			\$12,211,513

1. Maya Lin School is the former Washington Elementary School

2. FTE: Full-time employee

3. These days were cut in 2010 when a prior parcel tax, Measure E, did not pass.

4. See page 13.

Measure A Expenditures 2016-17 (continued)

1. Maintaining manageable elementary class sizes with student to teacher ratios no greater than 25 to 1 in K-3 classrooms

Percentage allocated in Measure A: 13-14% of parcel tax revenues

Percentage spent in 2016-17: 14.2%

In 2016-17, the District spent \$1,712,250 so that K-3 classes could remain staffed at a 25:1 maximum. As such, Measure A funds contributed to the salary of every K-3 teacher in our school district.



2. Maintaining high-quality neighborhood elementary schools

Percentage allocated in Measure A: 7-8% of parcel tax revenues

Percentage spent in 2016-17: 7.2%

In 2016-17, the District spent \$872,413 to support principals, office managers, health care clerks, and custodians at Otis Elementary, Franklin Elementary, and Maya Lin School (formerly Washington Elementary.) These three schools would have been closed if Measure A had not passed.

Measure A Expenditures 2016-17 (continued)

3. Maintaining Advanced Placement courses, supporting secondary school choice

Amount allocated in Measure A: 7-8% of parcel tax

Amount spent in 2016-17: 7%

In 2016-17, the District spent \$844,919 on this category. The money funded AP sections at Alameda High (\$187,354) and Encinal High School (165,843), as well as small class sizes at ASTI (\$199,001) and Island High School (\$251,359). The District also spent \$41,362 on innovative program planning at Paden and Ruby Bridges Elementary Schools.

4. Supporting programs which are specifically designed to close the achievement gap

Amount allocated in Measure A: 15-16% of parcel tax revenue

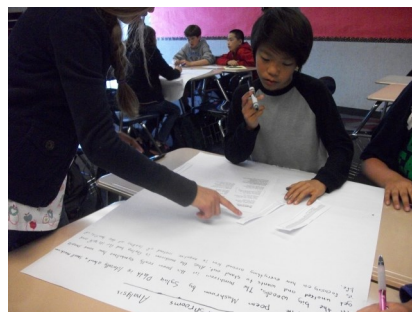
Amount spent in 2016-17: 16.1%

In 2016-17, the District spent these funds on:

- JROTC: \$117,503
- IBD: \$163,724
- Math Initiative: \$269,819
- Strategic Instruction Model: \$31,032
- Restoring five days to school year: \$1,236,715
- BayScience (BaySci): \$2,446

Total: \$1,945,728

The funds for the math initiative, IBD, SIM, and BaySci pay for staff development for teachers, peer coaches and trainers, and contracts with vendors for services and materials.



Measure A Expenditures 2016-17 (continued)

5. Maintaining high school athletics programs

Amount allocated in Measure A: 4% of parcel tax revenue

Amount spent in 2016-17: 4%

In 2016-17, the District spent \$479,961 of Measure A funds to maintain high school athletics. These funds contribute to stipends for more than 100 coaches, as well as team uniforms and equipment at Alameda High School and Encinal High School.



6. Maintaining art, music, drama , P.E., and library as integral subjects of the K-12 curriculum (along with P.E. and media/library in the elementary schools)

Amount allocated in Measure A: 9-10% of parcel tax revenues

Amount spent in 2016-17: 9.8%

In 2016-17, the District used these funds to support:

- Elementary music, PE, and library teachers: \$962,720
- High school fine arts sections: \$215,651



Measure A Expenditures 2016-17 (continued)



7. Attracting and retaining highly qualified and excellent teachers

Amount allocated in Measure A:

25-26% of parcel tax revenue

Amount spent in 2016-17: 27.7%

In 2016-17, the District spent \$3,334,267 for maintenance of the current salary for Alameda Education Association members. This is the equivalent of 4.25% of AUSD teachers' salaries.

8. Providing a lower and more effective ratio of students to counselors and support providers

Amount allocated in Measure A: 6% of parcel tax revenue

Amount spent in 2015-16: 6%

In 2016-17, the District spent these funds on

- \$679,722 for 8 counselors
- \$44,749 for .8 college and career technician

The funds brought our student to counselor ratio to 526:1 in our middle schools and 353:1 in our high schools. The average ratio in Alameda County is 827:1.

Measure A Expenditures 2016-17 (continued)

9. Supporting Alameda students in Alameda's public charter schools

Amount allocated in Measure A: 3-4% of parcel tax revenue

Amount spent in 2016-17: 3%

Measure A funds are distributed to charter schools that were in existence at the time of the measure's passage. They are distributed in proportion to each charter's enrollment of Alameda resident students. In 2016-17, the District spent \$361,531 on Alameda students in Alameda's charter schools, as shown below.

Charter School Name	P-2 ADA		Allocation Percentage		Allocation Amount
ACLC	253.94		23.73%		\$85,788.27
AOA- Middle School	379.31		35.44%		\$128,141.89
NEA	330.86		30.92%		\$111,774.08
BASE	.87		0.08%		\$293.91
AOA-Elementary	105.18		9.83%		\$35,532.85
Total	1,070.16		100%		\$361,531.00

Measure A Expenditures 2016-17 (continued)

10. Providing and maintaining technology at all sites

Amount allocated in Measure A: 5% of parcel tax revenue collected

Amount spent in 2016-17: 5.1%

In 2016-17, the District spent \$298,019 for 3.5 staff positions and \$311,924 for technology replacements and upgrades, including: Chromebooks, document cameras, projectors, iPads, desktop computers, and carts for Chromebooks, laptops, and iPads. That \$609,943 expenditure included \$35,325 in carry-over funds from 2015-16.

11. Supporting the Alameda Adult School

Amount allocated in Measure A: 4% of parcel tax revenue collected

Amount spent in 2016-17: 0

In 2015-16, the California Department of Education began funding adult education after a four-year hiatus. Because Measure A allows for a re-allocation of funds in the event of “changed funding circumstances,” the Board of Education approved distributing the \$480,000 typically spent on Adult Education to the three most expensive categories of Measure A funding: attracting and retaining excellent teachers; programs to close the achievement gap; and small class sizes in grades K-3.



Measure A Expenditures 2016-17 (continued)

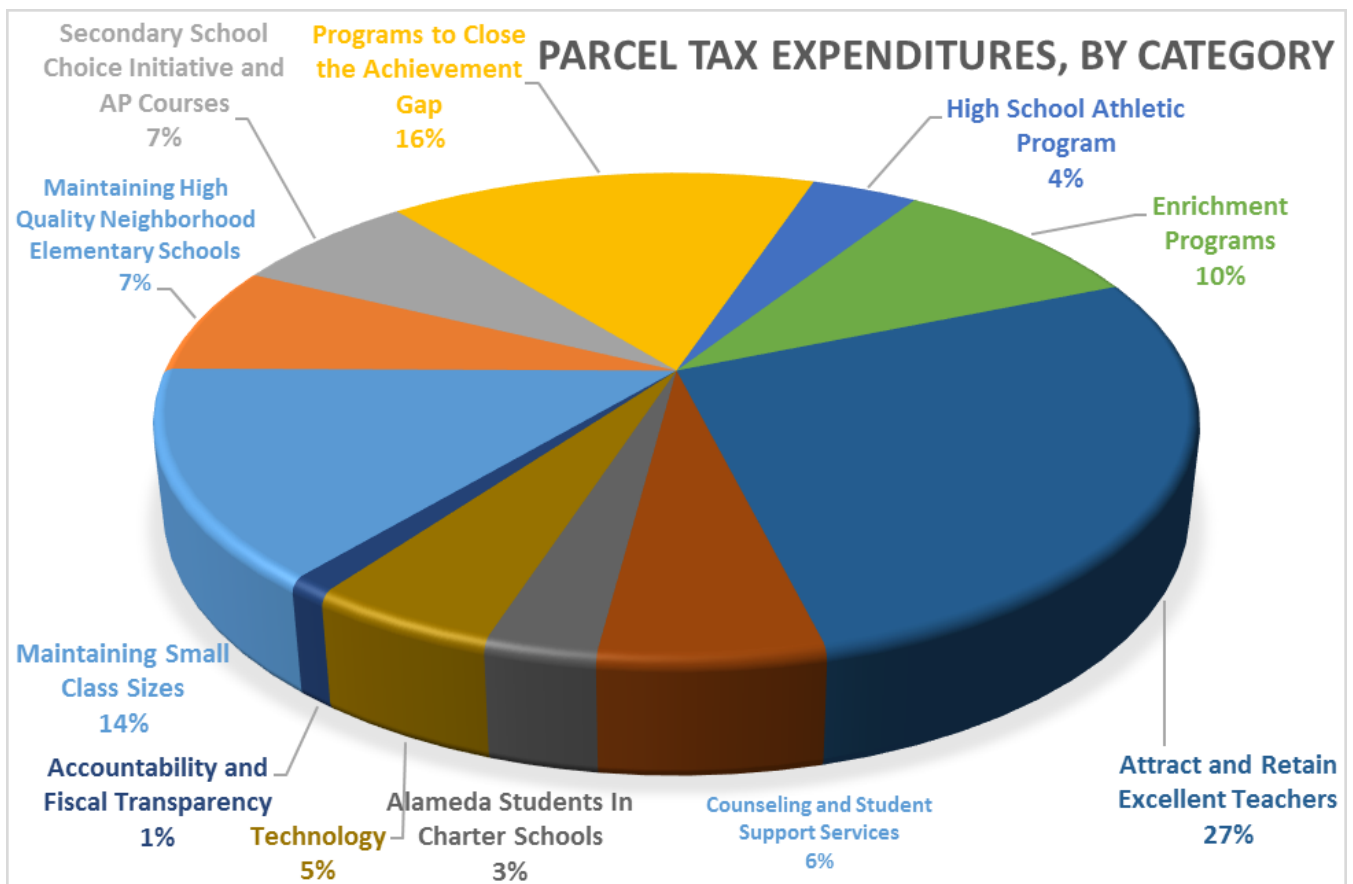
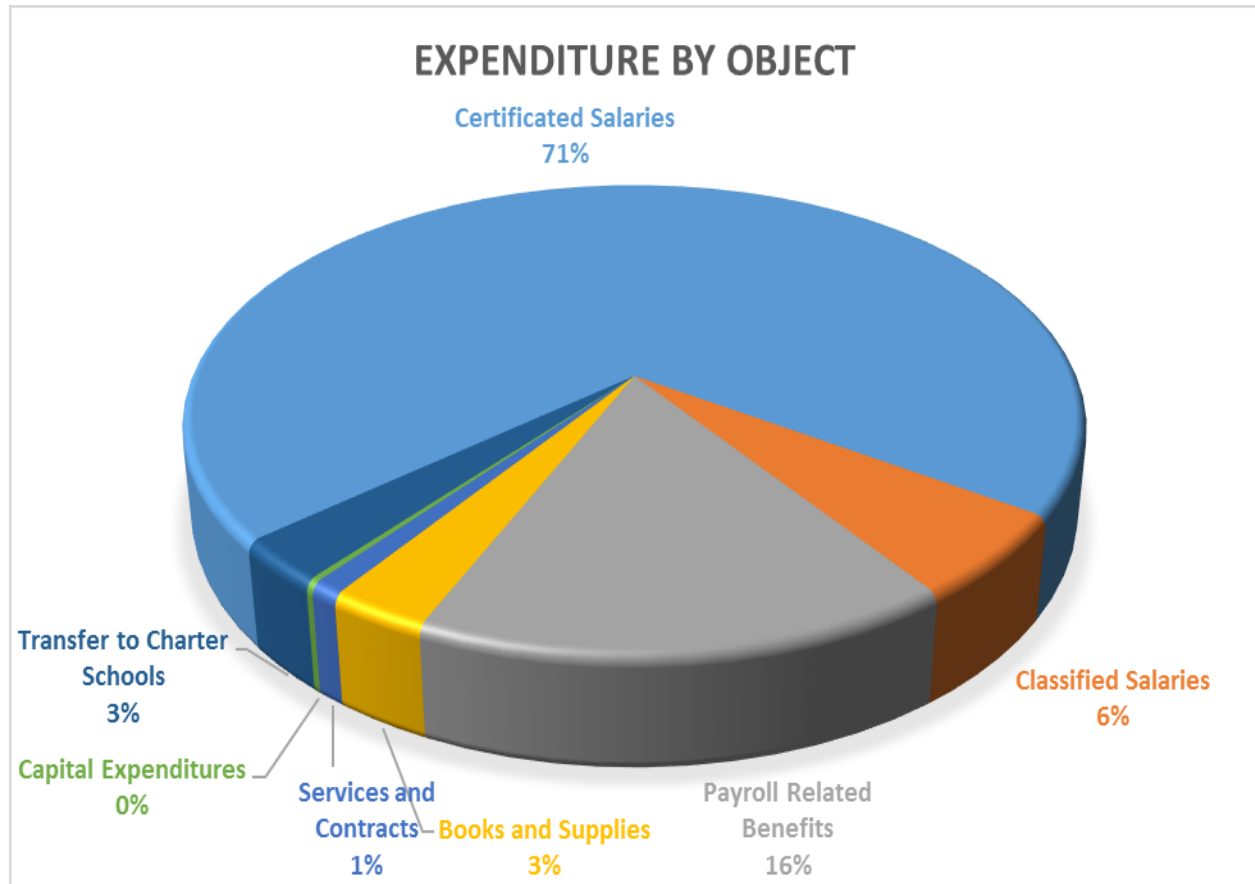
Accountability and Transparency

Amount allocated in Measure A: 1.5-2% of parcel tax revenue

Amount spent in 2016-17: 1.1%

In 2016-17, the District spent \$134,810 of the parcel tax revenue for staffing, supplies/materials, and parcel tax administration. Consistent with the relevant language of Measure A cited above, these funds, which support accountability and transparency with the community, are “taken off the top” before Measure A’s available funds are allocated into the primary expenditure categories. The funds paid for 50% of the cost of staffing one position (Senior Manager, Community Affairs), plus 25% of the cost of staffing two positions in Fiscal Services (Director of Fiscal Services and Accounting Supervisor), plus a contract for external parcel tax administration with SCI Consulting Group.

Measure A Expenditures by Object and Category



Parcel Tax Expenditures by Site

In February 2017, the Oversight Committee asked for details on the amount of parcel tax revenue each school site receives. In response, district staff created a spreadsheet of the amount of every kind of revenue that school sites receive (including state funds, federal funds, parcel tax revenues, and other grants and donations). The chart on this page shows the amount of parcel tax revenues received by each AUSD school site in 2016-17.

School	Measure A Expenditures
Bay Farm School	\$127,155
Earhart Elementary	\$149,481
Edison Elementary	\$91,130
Franklin Elementary	\$376,503
Haight Elementary	\$98,047
Lum Elementary	\$106,768
Maya Lin School	\$347,097
Otis Elementary	\$443,712
Paden Elementary	\$84,202
Ruby Bridges Elementary	\$123,500
Lincoln Middle	\$115,153
Wood Middle School	\$85,808
Alameda High School	\$797,692
ASTI	\$198,640
Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School	\$965,905
Island High School	\$240,166

Measure B1 Lawsuit

In February 2017, several plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against Measure B1, claiming its structure was illegal. On October 30, 2017, the judge for the case issued a tentative intent to rule in AUSD's favor.

While this is not yet a final decision, we are hopeful that Measure B1 will stand and we can continue to offer the valued programs we have for the last seven years.

Questions and Answers about Measure B1

What will the renewed local funding support?

Measure B1 will allocate funds to the same programs that Measure A does.

Does Measure B1 maintain the same fiscal accountability protections as Measure A?

Yes. Funding from this measure is subject to the same fiscal accountability protections already included in our current parcel tax measure, including:

- All funding from this measure stays local and can only be spent in Alameda schools
- The measure will expire in seven years and cannot be renewed without voter approval

Will there be an Oversight Committee to oversee these funds?

Yes. Funding from Measure B1 will continue to be overseen by an 11-member Oversight Committee, which will be appointed by the Board of Education.

Can funds from Measure B1 be taken away by the state?

No. By law, all funds generated by the measure will stay in Alameda schools. As is the case with current parcel tax funding, the state does not control and cannot access these funds.

Are senior citizens eligible for an exemption? Yes. Senior citizen homeowners, aged 65 and older, will continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure, as will property owners of any age receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability. To make it easier for our community members, exemptions from Measure A will automatically roll over to Measure B1. New applications need not be submitted.

We are very grateful for our community's support of our students, teachers, and school programs.