

Information on Measure L: Oakland Unified School District Student Achievement, Support and Safety

Q: What is Measure L?

A: Measure L is the Oakland Unified School District's **Student Achievement, Support and Safety Measure** to accelerate learning, social growth, school safety and teacher retention. Measure L was placed on the November 2, 2010 ballot to ask voters to consider an annual tax of \$195 per parcel. The resulting revenue would provide critical, temporary local revenue to:

- Retain effective teachers to improve student achievement,
- Fund teacher development to improve teacher performance,
- Retain student support staff, including teacher aides, early child development staff, attendance clerks, reading specialists, learning specialists, counselors and psychologists.

Money from Measure L cannot be taken by Sacramento. Measure L includes exemptions for low-income taxpayers. Measure L expires in 10 years.

Q: Why is Measure L urgent?

A: Due to massive state budget cuts and a down economy, OUSD was forced to slash \$122 million from its budget for the 2010-11 school year. The District has already laid off more than 600 people, including teachers, aides, librarians, custodians, school nurses, security staff, etc. These reductions have included dramatic cuts to programs like Early Childhood Development and Adult Education. We've all felt the impact of these cuts at each of our school sites—and they simply can't continue.

Q: What needs will be addressed by Measure L?

A: As parents know, the most important factor in improving student achievement is ensuring that every student has an experienced, effective teacher. Oakland can only retain the best teachers if it begins to pay competitive salaries. Money from Measure L will go directly toward compensation for effective teachers and staff, helping to place their earnings on par with neighboring school districts—allowing us to attract and keep excellent teachers in Oakland schools and create financial stability.

Q: Will my school benefit?

A: Yes. Every school will receive additional funding—not just a select few—so that all schools, including those who need it the most, have the resources needed to help all students get a better education and succeed.

Q: How will Measure L funds be spent?

A: Our schools must be equipped to meet children's essential social, emotional and academic needs. By providing funding to keep the best teachers and school support staff in Oakland, kids will receive the support they need to succeed. Top priorities are retaining experienced, effective teachers, improving teacher performance and ensuring every school has adequate student support staff, including teachers' aides, safety officers and custodians.

Q: How do I know the money will be spent as promised?

A: Measure L includes fiscal accountability provisions such as a mandatory review by the Citizens' Oversight Committee, public expenditure reports and guaranteed annual independent audits. These fiscal safeguards ensure funds are used efficiently and effectively. In addition this funding ends in 10 years.

Q: When is the election?

A: Tuesday, November 2, 2010.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: If you have any questions, please contact Troy Flint at (510) 473-5832, troy.flint@ousd.k12.ca.us or visit www.ousd.k12.ca.us/parceltax

