

KEEP Campaign Parcel Tax Questions

What about the Parcel Tax?

The District has had the same \$150 parcel tax for the past 14 years. Historically the parcel tax revenues were sufficient to pay for programs in technology, arts, nurse, library services, developmental PE and maintenance and operations. However, over time program costs have increased while the parcel tax revenues have remained \$150 since 1991. In addition, significant income has been lost due to declining enrollment in the past five years.

Can't we get more money from the State?

It's no secret that California schools are under funded, ranking near the bottom in the nation. The Loma Prieta per student rate is the fifth lowest in the state. The District cannot get this per-pupil funding rate changed. There have been lawsuits throughout California by other low-funded districts and the courts have held that as long as the per-pupil rates are within 10% of each other, it is legal to fund districts so differently.

Where does the money from the Parcel Tax go?

In the current year parcel tax income is being used to partially pay for:

Smaller Class Sizes	Middle School Electives
Nurse	Technology Support
Developmental PE	Maintenance & Operations
Instructional Supplies	Yard Duty Supervision

Why can't parcel tax income be used next year for the same programs being partially funded this year, especially Developmental PE, Smaller Class Sizes, and Middle School electives?

Next year the District will be required to reduce general fund expenditures by \$450,000 to balance the budget. Reductions in salaries and benefits will total approximately \$300,000. The District will need to utilize parcel tax income to help cover the remaining \$150,000 of spending cuts. Expenditures for student safety, instructional supplies, maintenance, operations and technology support must utilize more of the parcel tax to compensate for these additional cuts in general fund expenditures. Unfortunately, this means there will no longer be parcel tax revenues available to partially fund student enrichment programs. Parcel tax income will continue to be spent according to the restrictions approved by voters.

Do we really need a parcel tax and the KEEP Campaign?

YES! Most of our neighboring districts also supplement their state funding with local parcel taxes and annual district-wide fundraising campaigns. Without additional income from parcel tax dollars and a successful KEEP campaign we will be required to reduce and/or eliminate our current student enrichment programs.

Are Seniors exempt from the parcel tax?

Yes, Senior citizens 65 and older may apply for an exemption at the School District Office.