

Berkeley Public Schools

Bi-Annual Report from the Berkeley Unified School District | Berkeley, CA | Winter 2011-12

REPORT

Berkeley is the Place...

TO BE

Berkeley Public Schools are thriving because of the community engagement and commitment to public education that are hallmarks of our city. The people of Berkeley believe in the right of every child to an excellent education that is equitable, engaging, and enriched. That's why we say "Berkeley Public Schools are the place to be!"

Superintendent William Huyett reports, "The recent economic climate has created opportunities and challenges for public education across our nation. One way that Berkeley Public Schools have remained vibrant is through strong fiscal management and the generosity of local taxpayers who support our schools."



TO LEARN

Berkeley Public Schools have the resources to achieve excellence.

- Class size averages remain at 20:1 in grades K-3, 26:1 in grades 4-5, and 28:1 in grades 6-12; lower student-to-teacher ratios than most public schools across the State.
- Students receive a standards based curriculum infused with enrichment.

Working Together for a Strong Foundation

Letter from the Deputy Superintendent



Javetta Cleveland

I am very excited about the opportunity to share the fiscal state of the District with you. The roller coaster ride that we have endured over the last several years has been mostly downhill. We have seen a 15% reduction in general purpose revenue over the last several years. At times we have been notified that there will be reductions and took the necessary steps to mitigate the cuts and in the end a portion of the reductions have been restored.

It is great that some of the reduced funds have been restored, but we know that the State has a substantial structural deficit, and continues to "kick the can down the road" and threatens cuts in the future.

The good news is that our District is still fiscally strong. We have an ending fund balance from last year that will help us if the Governor pulls the trigger in January and we receive mid-year budget cuts. Our ending fund balance is a result of us having our BSEP parcel tax measure to support class size reduction, increased student attendance, restoration of state funding cuts over the last couple of years and tightening the grip on the dollar by making relatively small budget reductions each year with the least amount of impact on our students.

Thanks to the Berkeley community and our dedicated unions (many of whom have seen increased benefit costs) we have a budget process that has worked well over the past several years. Our Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee has worked hard and fast when we have needed to make cuts. These cuts have forced us to reduce offerings in the Adult Education program, administrative and support personnel, and central office discretionary money.

Behind the scenes, we have managed to improve our credit rating from A+ to AA- during these tough times. What was appealing to the rating committee are the District's stable ending balances and financial management, BSEP and Measures H&I approved with strong voter support, and increasing student attendance. The improved bond rating has assisted us with obtaining low interest when financing our facilities bonds and therefore saving money for taxpayers.

I look forward to continuing the commitment to fiscal responsibility that has served our district well.

– Javetta Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

For more on the District's finances, see "BUSD by the Numbers" inside >>>

Berkeley is the Place...

TO TEACH

- Teachers at every school are part of a professional learning community that improve and enrich their teaching craft.
- Local taxes and generous donors ensure art education, field trips, and innovative programs in every school.



TO CONNECT

Civic and community engagement in public education makes Berkeley Public Schools the place to connect.

- **The 2020 Vision** collaborative brings together our district, city and community partners to align planning and resources to address inequities in student achievement.
- **Berkeley Public Health** connects with BUSD families offering dental screening, vision, counseling, and other health services.
- **UC Berkeley** students connect with BUSD students as mentors, tutors, and as teaching interns.
- **Community members** connect with teachers and students as mentors and tutors — Berkeley Public Education Foundation (BPEF) placed over 2,380 volunteers in our schools last year.
- Librarians from the **Berkeley Public Libraries** organize book groups for middle school students and visit every school in the Spring to promote summer reading.

Find us online at...

www.berkeley.net

Bonds Invest in the Future

Three general obligation bonds passed in 1992, 2000, and most recently Measure I of 2010, providing the Berkeley Unified School District with a unique opportunity to carefully review its facilities needs and plan for the future. Citizen oversight is an important component of our bond program and the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee meets regularly to monitor and report on all bond proceeds and expenditures.

Investment in Technology: Measure I invests in the infrastructure, hardware, and software required for 21st century education.

Investment in Facilities: Modernization projects happening in our schools include new roofs, new floors, new playground surfaces, and new paint. In addition, there are four major construction projects planned or underway:

- West Campus (University Avenue at Bonar Street) — Multi-phase renovation to house District Administration (early 2012), Board Room, and CTE/Charter School classrooms
- Berkeley High (south of Bancroft Avenue) — A new athletic team building and bleachers (completion 2012) and classroom building with new gym (completion in 2014)
- Derby Street Athletic Field (between Milvia Street and MLK Way) — A baseball field will be built on part of this location. Construction is scheduled to start May 2012 with completion in 2013.
- Jefferson Elementary (1400 Ada Street) — A classroom addition to Jefferson is planned to begin in March 2013.

For more information about facilities, go to www.berkeley.net/facilities

BSEP Makes a Difference Every Day

Since 1986, our local special tax for schools, the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) has made a huge difference in the quality of our children's education. "BSEP dollars provide essential services and educational opportunities that many other districts can no longer fund," says BSEP Manager Nancy Hoeffer.

Currently BSEP tax pays for:

- 150 classroom teachers to create smaller classes — almost one-third of all of our classroom teachers!
- The Music Program, both teachers and instruments, available to all 4–8 grade students
- Libraries in every school that are well-staffed and brimming with books
- Computer hardware and software, and technology support in the schools
- An evaluation office to assess the effectiveness of educational programs
- Outreach and translation to support parents' involvement in their children's education
- Programs chosen by each school: arts and science, athletics and gardening, counseling and tutoring, and much more!



BUSD BY THE NUMBERS

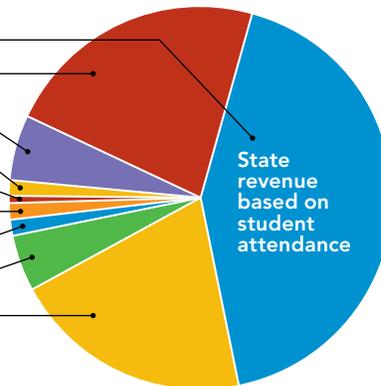
The Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) maintains a General Fund and thirteen other smaller District Funds. Within the Combined General Fund are both unrestricted and restricted monies. Unrestricted money can be spent on any expense. Restricted money can be only spent on the designated category, for instance on teacher professional development or instructional materials like textbooks. District Funds not part of the General Fund include revenue and expenditures for facilities, early childhood education, nutritional services, other capital items, and the special reserve maintained by the district.

2010-2011 Income and Expenses

General Fund Income (dollars in millions)

Revenue Limit	\$ 49.4
State Program Revenue	25.9
Federal Revenue	6.5
Other Local Revenue	1.7
Leases, Rentals, Other	0.6
Afterschool Parent Fees	1.6
Parent Donations	1.5
Maintenance Parcel Tax (Measure BB)	5.6
BSEP Parcel Tax (Measure A)	23.4

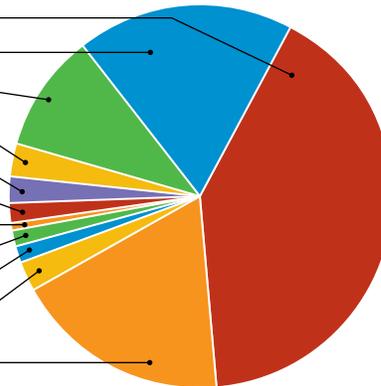
Total \$116.2



General Fund Expenses (dollars in millions)

Certificated Salaries	\$ 47.4
Classified Salaries	21.0
Instructional Services and Materials	11.6
Adult Education	3.0
Technology/Print Shop	2.6
Maintenance and Operations	2.1
Legal Fees	0.5
General Administration	1.5
Pupil Support Services	1.6
Utilities	3.0
Employee Benefits	21.0

Total \$115.3

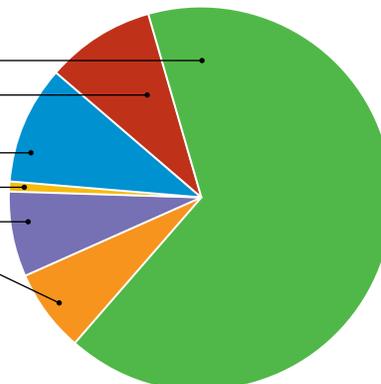


BSEP Expenditures (percent of total funds)*

Classroom Teachers	66.00%
Professional Development, Assessment and Technology	9.00%
School Enrichment	10.25%
Parent Outreach	1.25%
Visual and Performing Arts	6.25%
Libraries	7.25%

Total FY2011 BSEP Funds: \$23.4 million

*2% is taken off the top before the distribution above. That money is for support of Planning and Oversight, Public Information, and Translation.



The District is fiscally solvent and meets the 3% reserve required by the State of California. The District uses an independent auditing firm and conducts separate audits for the General Fund, Berkeley's special taxes BSEP and Measure BB* as well as the bond fund, Measure I.

*Measure BB funding is replaced by Measure H of 2010 starting in 2013-14 school year.

Fast Facts:

- BUSD credit rating AA- is one of the highest credit ratings of any school district in the state.
- Berkeley's per student expenditure is \$12,401; the average California school district spends \$9,012.
- Improved credit rating, federal stimulus funds, more efficient project planning and refinancing of bonds will save taxpayers \$17 million over the life of the bonds.
- Nine of 11 elementary schools and all 3 middle schools have API scores over the state goal of 800.
- BUSD students graduated at a higher rate than their county and state counterparts.
- Thanks to BSEP, Berkeley is one of the few districts in the state that has maintained Kindergarten – 3rd grade class size average of 20.
- The district lost administrative/management, business technical, clerical, counseling, and custodial staffing as well as bus drivers due to State budget cuts in the last 3 years.



Thank You Berkeley!

Berkeley Public School children thank the Berkeley community for the generous support that makes their schools great!

Inside:

- News from the district
- Financial highlights
- Your tax dollars at work in our schools

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Thank You Berkeley For making our schools great!

Our teachers, staff and administrators work hard to give all our students an excellent education. But we can't do it alone — hours of volunteer assistance and financial help are vital to our work.

- PTA members fill a variety of roles at all our schools, from creating a welcoming environment to raising funds. At the high school, both the PTSA and the Berkeley High Development Group fill this role.
- The Berkeley Public Education Foundation raises close to \$600,000 annually plus coordinates volunteer help from all corners of the city.
- Parents, other family members and community members sit on a variety of district committees, lobby the state government to meet its promises to public schools.
- The voters of Berkeley support the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program, maintenance programs and facility bonds.

We're on the Move

District Offices to Relocate to 2020 Bonar Street

After 30 years at 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, the school district business services and administration are moving to 2020 Bonar Street. That facility (facing University Avenue) housed the Adult School before its move 5 years ago to San Pablo Avenue, and before that was Berkeley High's "West Campus," home to 9th grade classes for many years.

The Accounting, Admissions, Benefits, Budget, Educational Services, Human Resources, Payroll, Purchasing, Special Education, Student Services, Superintendent, Technology, and other staff will be relocated to the newly earthquake-retrofitted building.

The first phase of the move is expected to take place over President's Weekend in February, 2012. Old City Hall, where many school district offices are now located, is owned by the City of Berkeley and needs significant seismic retrofitting.

Did You Know?

Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) pays for almost 1/3 of district classroom teachers.

BSEP revenue makes up roughly 20% of the district's entire budget.

BSEP budget is overseen by a committee of parent and community representatives from each school — the BSEP Planning & Oversight Committee — a model of fiscal accountability adopted by other districts.

