

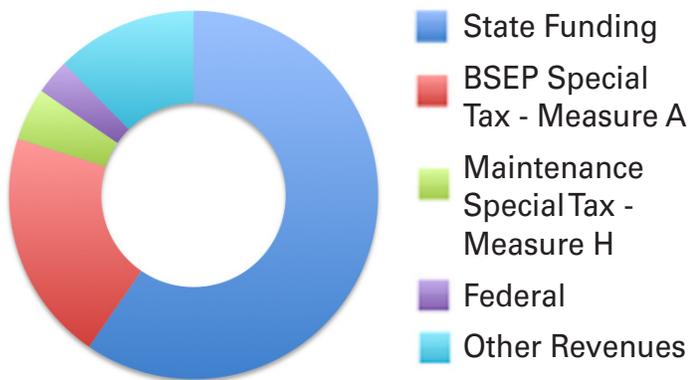
# Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP)

Since 1986, a community's response to school funding shortages

The Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) has made a huge difference in the quality of our children's education. In response to school funding shortages in the wake of Proposition 13, the Berkeley community supported a special local tax for our public schools. Since its inception in 1986, the tax measure has retained strong voter support. In November 2006 the measure won the approval of close to 80% of voters, as Measure A, the Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006, was extended for 10 years.

## BSEP funds are crucial to improving Berkeley schools educational programs

- Local tax funds are integral to educating Berkeley's children.



- BSEP provides 20% of the school district's operating budget.
- Measure H, a special tax that helps maintain our schools, provides 5% of the district budget.

### Thoughtful Oversight of BSEP Funds

Among the cities that have created local tax initiatives to supplement their schools' budgets, Berkeley's BSEP Measure is unusual in that it specifies the purposes for which the funds may be used, and requires extensive community involvement in planning and overseeing the expenditures. The BSEP Planning and Oversight (P&O) Committee, comprised of parent representatives from each school, meets regularly to review the implementation of the Measure, and to ensure that BSEP funds are spent in compliance with the Measure.

## Examples of BSEP funding

**Teachers: Nearly one in three classroom teachers is paid by BSEP funds.**



**Libraries: 100% Berkeley BSEP funded**



**Visual & Performing Arts in Grades 3-8: 95% BSEP funded**



See the reverse of this flyer for actual funding amounts and more details.

An outside audit is also mandated by the Measure, providing an additional layer of assurance that funds are being spent according to the voters' wishes.

**The Future of BSEP:** Thanks to the generosity of Berkeley voters in passing Measure A of 2006, these funds will continue to support and strengthen our schools through June 2017. The public engagement and planning process leading to a vote on the renewal of BSEP in November 2016 is now underway.  
<http://berkeleyschools.net/bsep>

# BSEP Provides Essential Programs in our Schools

## Teachers – Class Size Reduction 66% (\$16.3 million)

The bulk of the BSEP tax money goes to keeping class sizes as small as possible, so teachers can give maximum individual attention to students. In 2013-14, class sizes throughout the district average 20 in grades kindergarten through 3rd grade, 26 in grades 4-5, and 28 in grades 6-12. BSEP pays for over 30% of Berkeley's classroom teachers. Providing smaller class sizes, as well as other intensive programs, would be impossible without BSEP.



## School Discretionary 10.25% (\$2.5 million)

Over \$220/student goes directly to each school to provide programs chosen by the School Governance Council (SGC), comprised of parents, staff, and the principal. These programs encompass both academic and enriched experiential learning, in such areas as art, science, PE, after-school tutoring, counseling, sports, student activities, and more. The SGC is also responsible for allocating other funds, so all the school-based funds can be spent according to a comprehensive plan to support the achievement of all students.

## Music, Visual, and Performing Arts Programs 6.25% (\$1.5 million)

BSEP is the sole source of funds for the 4th through 8th grade music program. Music teachers provide instrumental music education for all children in grades four and five, and for many in grades six through eight as "0" period classes. Instruments are loaned to every music student without charge. BSEP funds also support other visual and performing arts, as well as concerts and festivals.



## School Libraries 7.25% (\$1.8 million)

Every school has a well-staffed and well-stocked library. BSEP is the sole funding source for the district library program, providing books, computers, electronic databases and other materials, librarians in all middle schools and the high schools, library media technicians in the elementary and middle schools, and a districtwide library coordinator.

## Professional Development; Education Program Evaluation and Assessment; and Technology for Schools 9% (\$2.2 million)

These funds are dedicated to providing professional development for the District's teachers and staff, to assessing the effectiveness of the District's educational programs for improving student achievement, and to providing and maintaining computers and technology in schools.



## Parent Outreach 1.25% (\$300,000)

The district is committed to supporting students' families in their efforts to have greater access to and involvement in their children's education. BSEP funds support personnel dedicated to these goals, focusing particularly on addressing and removing barriers so that underserved families can better participate in their students' education.

## Public Information and Oversight (\$500,000)

Before the BSEP tax revenues are distributed for the purposes described above, two percent of the revenues received by the District from this tax are allocated to funding communications to parents and the community, maintaining the district website, translation, and to supporting the citizens' oversight committee, the BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee and School Governance Councils.