

BSEP

Berkeley Schools

EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Berkeley's local special tax in support of our public schools.

A community response to school funding shortages in the wake of Prop. 13, the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP), has made a huge difference in the quality of our children's education since 1986. With a successful twenty-year history, this special local tax was on Berkeley's November 2016 ballot as Measure E1, the Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2016, where it won the approval of close to 89% of the voters, and was extended for 8 years.

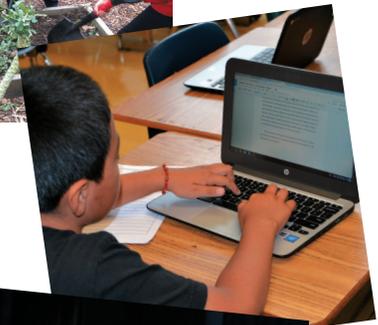
Thoughtful oversight of BSEP funds

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

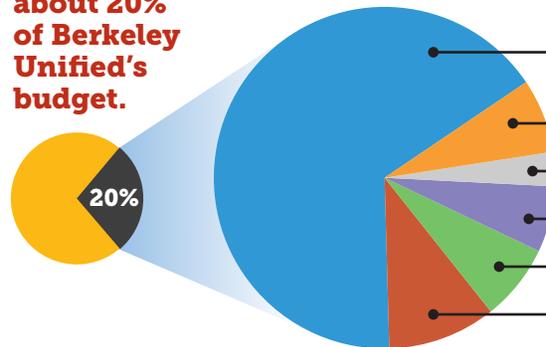
What do these local BSEP funds provide?

Local tax funds are integral to educating Berkeley's children. They pay for:

- ✓ Small class sizes — providing about 30% of all classroom teachers
- ✓ Support for Teaching — professional development, a research and assessment office, expanded course offerings and classroom support
- ✓ Programs for Struggling Students — counseling, family outreach, academic support
- ✓ Libraries in every school, library books and materials
- ✓ Music and arts programs in elementary and middle schools
- ✓ Computer equipment, software and techs in the schools
- ✓ School programs for a range of needs at each site — arts and science programs, athletics, tutoring, and other services determined by each school council.



BSEP is about 20% of Berkeley Unified's budget.



BSEP funds provide:

- 66% — Small Class Sizes and Support for Teaching
- 7% — Student Support
- 3.25% — Technology
- 6.25% — Music/VAPA
- 7.25% — Libraries
- 10.25% — Site Programs

BSEP ★ Excellence!

High Quality Instruction (66% of net revenue)

Small Class Sizes

- Provides 30% of all classroom teachers in the K-12 Berkeley Public Schools.
- K-5 school-wide average goal of 23
- 6-12 average class size goal of 28

Support for Teaching

- Professional development
- Classroom support
- Program evaluation
- Expanded course offerings



Essentials for Excellence (27% of net revenue)

K-12 School Libraries

- Provides all funding for school libraries, including staff and books, materials, services, and equipment in every school.

Music and Visual and Performing Arts

- Provides 4th-8th grade teachers and staff, professional development, musical instruments and materials, services and equipment.

Instructional Technology

- Provides instructional technology in schools, and access for students to computers and learning technology.

School Site Programs

- Gives each school discretion over funds for: site-based programs such as arts and sciences instruction, academic tutoring and counseling, athletics and student activities, and before and after-school programs.



Effective Student Support (7% of net revenue)

Student Achievement Strategies

- Improve academic outcomes for struggling students

Counseling and Behavioral Health

- Provides support for behavioral and social-emotional issues that affect student learning.

Family Engagement and Access

- Develops parent education and focused opportunities for family involvement to support student learning.



Berkeley
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Berkeley Unified School District

Note: Before allocation of resources to the above purposes, 2% of revenues are allocated in support of the Planning and Oversight Committee, School Site Councils, communication and outreach services. Produced by Berkeley Unified School District — BSEP 09-2017