

Berryessa Union School District Measure K Parcel Tax Renewal Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How are Berryessa Union schools doing?

A. Despite all the challenges of the past year, we are thankful for our community's ongoing partnership. Berryessa Union School District (BUSD) provides local students with a quality education that challenges them to excel academically and prepares them for high school and 21st-century jobs. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the essential role that local schools play in our community.

Beyond providing high-quality education, our local schools also provide a space for students to learn, socialize, and stay active while parents go to work. BUSD will continue to monitor public health protocols and work with our great teachers, support staff, administrators and strong community to ensure that a return to school is done as safely as possible. To learn more about how the District is addressing COVID-19 challenges to ensure a safe return to in-person learning, visit tinyurl.com/busdreopening.

Q. Does Berryessa Union School District have a local funding measure?

A. Initially passed in 2008 and renewed in 2012, BUSD schools have relied on locally controlled funding from Measure K, the District's \$79 parcel tax, to protect quality education for our students.

With this funding, Berryessa Union School District is able to maintain core academic programs in science, technology, reading, writing, languages, and math, as well as retain quality teachers, school counselors and library/media technicians. These funds also keep school libraries open, which help our students develop strong reading skills and learn new technologies that benefit them in the classroom and the world.

However, Measure K funding is soon set to expire. Without this funding, approximately \$1.8 million annually would have to be cut from the school district's annual budget.

Q. What is the District doing to maintain this local funding?

A. To protect the quality of education and instruction in local schools, the Berryessa Union School District Board of Trustees is considering placing a measure on the November 2021 ballot to renew expiring Measure K funding. A potential measure would not increase taxes, but simply renew the existing parcel tax at \$79 per parcel per year for eight years.

Q. Specifically, what would a proposed renewal measure do?

A. The proposed renewal measure would not increase the current tax rate and would be used to:

- Maintain core academic programs in science, technology, reading, writing, languages, and math
- Attract and retain quality teachers
- Provide learning technology
- Retain school counselors and library/media technicians
- Keep school libraries open

Q. Would the potential measure increase my tax rate?

A. No. The proposed measure would renew local funding at the current rate without an increase.

Q. How do we know funds from a potential renewal measure would be spent wisely?

A. The proposed renewal measure would continue the fiscal accountability protections from Measure K, passed in 2008 and renewed in 2012. An independent committee reported that all local funds have been spent as voters intended, and the District has been open and transparent about all expenditures. To view Measure K reports, please visit bit.ly/busdparceltax.

A renewal measure would require the same fiscal accountability without increasing the tax rate:

- All funds would be spent in BUSD schools and could not be taken by the State
- By law, funds would be spent in the classroom, not on administrator salaries
- Independent citizens' oversight and annual audits would be required
- Senior citizen homeowners would continue to be eligible for an exemption

Q. How much would the renewal measure cost taxpayers?

A. A potential renewal would keep the same \$79 per parcel annual tax rate in place, without raising taxes.

Q. How long would the potential measure be in place?

A. If approved, the potential measure would automatically expire after eight years and cannot be extended without voter approval.

Q. Could senior citizens receive an exemption from the cost?

A. Yes. Senior citizen homeowners, age 65 and over, could apply for an exemption for their primary residence. If you already receive an exemption from the cost of Measure K, you would not need to reapply.

Q. I don't have children in school; how would the renewal measure benefit me?

A. Investing in our local schools makes sense. By keeping our schools strong, we help maintain the property values of our homes. Additionally, all property owners, regardless of whether they have students in the District would be required to pay the tax.

Q. How can I learn more?

A. We welcome your input as we work to continue our tradition of student success. For more information, please visit bit.ly/busdparceltax or contact Kevin Franklin, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, at kfranklin@busd.net or call (408) 923-1860.