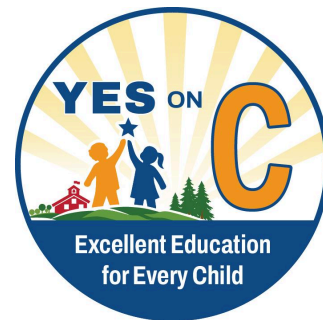


## Measure C FAQs



### #1: What are the current challenges at Redwood City Schools?

Redwood City schools are facing over \$5 million in budget cuts due to expiring funding, federal cuts, and long-standing lower per-student funding compared to neighboring districts.

What does that look like for students?

- Classrooms with 28–31 students, where one teacher is trying to meet a wide range of academic and language needs
- Combined-grade classes, where teachers are splitting instruction across two grade levels
- Fewer adults in the classroom to help students who are struggling
- School counselors and nurses serving multiple campuses
- Reading specialists and paraeducators reduced or eliminated
- STEM, art, and music programs scaled back or available less frequently

For teachers, it means doing more with less and carrying heavier workloads.

Without additional funding, the district will have to make more budget cuts in the future. That could mean even larger class sizes, fewer enrichment opportunities, and continued strain on student support services. Our schools are where children learn to read, build friendships, discover their interests, and feel a sense of belonging. Measure C would bring in stable funding to help ensure that every student has the attention, support, and opportunities they deserve.

### #2: How will Measure C help?

Redwood City Schools are struggling to provide students with the education they deserve. Our teachers are overburdened, class sizes are swelling, and critical programs like STEM, Art, and Music are disappearing. Without additional funding, the quality of education in our community will continue to decline, and our students will bear the burden.

Measure C is a direct investment in classrooms. If approved, it will:

- Raise approximately \$12.2 million per year for eight years
- Help attract and retain qualified teachers and counselors
- Maintain manageable class sizes
- Protect science, technology, engineering, math, arts, and music programs
- Support strong reading and writing instruction

Funds are legally restricted to student-facing uses. They cannot be spent on administrator salaries, outside contractors, or anything that doesn't directly impact student learning.

This measure keeps local schools strong and provides stable funding during uncertain times. We have an opportunity to step up for our schools and protect the future of Redwood City's children.

### #3: How does Measure C address equity?

RCSD serves a high proportion of low-income students and English learners. Measure C will help close achievement gaps by ensuring equitable access to quality education for all students by providing funding to all schools in the district, rather than relying on school-specific parent donations.

The tax itself is structured fairly:

- It is based on building square footage, so smaller homes pay significantly less than large commercial properties. Big businesses pay their fair share to support local schools!
- Senior citizens and qualifying low-income residents may apply for an exemption

This approach balances equity for students with fairness for taxpayers.

#### **#4: Will any of these funds go toward administrator salaries or outside contractors?**

No. Measure C funds are legally restricted to educational programs, teacher salaries, classroom instruction, and student support services. They cannot be used for administrator salaries, pensions, or unrelated district expenses.

There is also:

- An independent citizens' oversight committee
- Annual audits
- Public reporting requirements

#### **#5: What is a Parcel Tax and why isn't the district getting enough money from regular sources?**

A parcel tax is a local funding measure that goes directly to Redwood City public schools. Every dollar stays in RCSD and cannot be taken by the State or federal government. Even though RCSD receives state funding and property tax revenue, those funds do not cover the real cost of providing a high-quality education here.

Here's why:

- RCSD receives the same base state funding as districts in much lower cost areas of California. The state funding formula does not account for the dramatically higher cost of living in the Bay Area.
- Our neighboring districts have significantly higher parcel taxes than Redwood City. As a result, they operate with substantially more local funding per student.
- The Bay Area is one of the most expensive places in the country to recruit and retain teachers. Competitive salaries are essential.
- State funding is tied to attendance. As housing costs rise and enrollment declines, funding drops even though fixed costs remain.
- Bonds and Prop 28 funds are restricted and cannot be used for teacher salaries, counselors, or core academic programs.

The result is that Redwood City schools are operating with fewer local dollars than nearby districts, while facing the same (or higher) operating costs. Measure C is a parcel tax that will close that gap and allows us to remain competitive, retain strong teachers, and protect student programs.