

Grants to the San Francisco Unified School District*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration
On: Wednesday, July 27, 2022
Members: Packard, Anderson, Merrill, Patterson

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is a public agency that is separate from the City and operates the San Francisco public school system through 12th grade.

The City Charter establishes the Public Education Enrichment Fund (PEEF). Each year the City must contribute a certain amount of money to PEEF for the SFUSD to use for general education programs, preschool programs, and programs for art, music, sports and libraries. In the current fiscal year, the City contributes approximately \$101 million to the PEEF.

At their discretion, the Board of Supervisors and Mayor may provide extra funding to SFUSD, in addition to the PEEF funding that the Charter requires.

Under State law, SFUSD and City College receive a portion of local property tax revenues through another fund referred to as Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). When there is money left over in the ERAF after SFUSD and the Community College District receive their allocation, the City receives a portion of that remaining money, referred to as excess ERAF. In the current fiscal year, the City will receive approximately \$329 million from excess ERAF. That amount could ~~fluctuate increase or decrease~~ in future years.

The Proposal: Proposition would amend the Charter to set aside additional City funding for SFUSD, to be placed in a new Student Success Fund (Fund).

The Fund would pay for grants to eligible SFUSD schools up to \$1 million per year to implement ~~intervention community-based~~ programs targeted to meet the specific needs identified by each school that improve student achievement and social/emotional wellness. To receive and implement a grant, a school would need to have a full-time coordinator, paid for by this fund, and a school site council with required participation from parents, students, community members, and school staff. The City must prioritize grants to schools that demonstrate low academic achievement and/or with a high level of vulnerable students. The City could later, by ordinance or regulation, further define ~~which schools would be eligible for these grants,~~ specify priorities for grant distribution, and establish the grant application process. Examples of programs might include academic tutoring, math and literacy specialists, additional social workers, arts and science programming, or afterschool and summer enrichment.

The Fund would also pay for potential grants to SFUSD to plan for or implement programs designed to enhance student achievement or social/emotional wellness at a school or group of schools.

Under Proposition __, each year the City would set aside money to place in the Fund. The City would set aside \$11 million in Fiscal Year 2023-24; \$35 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25; \$45 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26; and \$60 million in Fiscal Year 2026-27. ~~In later years, the City would adjust the amount of the set aside based on changes to the City's level of discretionary revenues, which are revenues that are unrestricted and that the City could use for any lawful purpose.~~ The City may also appropriate less money to the Fund if there are budget deficits or significant decreases in excess ERAF after Fiscal Year 2023-24, and in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2037-2038. This measure sets aside existing city funds but does not impose any new taxes or fees.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to set aside additional City funding to pay for grants to the San Francisco Unified School District to enhance community involvement and student achievement or social/emotional wellness.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*