

Funding Programs Serving Children, Youth, and Families*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration
On: Thursday, July 25, 2024
Members: Packard, Anderson, Wong, Troy, Wang

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The City funds services for children, youth, and their families in various ways, including the Children and Youth Fund, the Public Education Enrichment Fund and the Student Success Fund.

The San Francisco Unified School District (“School District”) is a public agency that is separate from the City and operates the San Francisco public school system through 12th grade.

The Our Children, Our Families Council (“Council”) is an advisory body created by the voters and co-led by the Mayor and the Superintendent of the School District. The Council coordinates City, School District, and community efforts to improve outcomes for children, youth and their families.

Children and Youth Fund

The Children and Youth Fund supports services for children and youth through 24 years old. The Charter requires the City to contribute to this fund a dedicated portion of the property tax revenues the City collects each year. Based on a community needs assessment produced by the Department of Children, Youth and their Families, the City uses these funds to provide services including child care, health services, job training, social services, educational, recreational and cultural programs and delinquency prevention services. The City must use this fund to increase the total amount the City spends on these services above the amount it spent in Fiscal Year 2000–2001, referred to as the “Children and Youth Fund Baseline.”

Public Education Enrichment Fund

The Public Education Enrichment Fund (“PEEF”) supports early childhood education programs as well as services the School District provides for general education programs and programs for art, music, sports and libraries. The Charter requires the City to contribute a certain amount to this fund each year, adjusted annually. The City must use this fund to increase the total amount the City spends on these services above the amount spent in Fiscal Year 2002–2003, referred to as the “PEEF Baseline.” The Board of Supervisors and Mayor may provide extra funding to the School District, in addition to the PEEF funding required by the Charter.

Student Success Fund

The City grants money from the Student Success Fund to the School District and individual schools for programs that improve student academic achievement and social/emotional wellness. The Charter requires the City to contribute money to the fund each year through Fiscal Year 2037–2038. In Fiscal Year 2024–2025, the City must place \$35 million into this fund. That amount will continue to increase each year, though the City may place less money in the fund under certain circumstances.

The Proposal: Proposition __ is a Charter amendment that would change the way the City administers funding for services to children, youth, and their families.

Proposition __ would create an Our Children, Our Families Initiative (“Initiative”), led by the Mayor and the Superintendent of the School District and staffed by employees of the City and the School District, to support the Council. This group would evaluate expenditures from the Children and Youth Fund and the PEEF using an outcomes framework and would report

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each year to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor would approve the expenditures as part of the budget process.

Proposition __ would require SFUSD to provide a report to the Initiative each year about its spending of PEEF funds, and to submit a proposal every five years describing how it plans to use PEEF funds consistent with guidelines set forth in City law. The City's future contributions to SFUSD from the PEEF would depend on the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor approving the School District's proposal.

Proposition __ would prohibit the City from crediting expenditures from the Student Success Fund when calculating the Children and Youth Fund Baseline, the PEEF Baseline, or other similar provisions. Proposition __ would not change the minimum contributions by the City to the Children and Youth Fund, the PEEF, or the Student Success Fund.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to create an Our Children, Our Families Initiative, add additional reporting requirements and guidelines for the Children and Youth Fund and the Public Education Enrichment Fund, and prohibit the City from crediting expenditures from the Student Success Fund when also calculating the Children and Youth Fund Baseline, the Public Education Enrichment Fund Baseline, or other similar provisions.

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