

Frequently Asked Questions Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District

How are our local Cotati-Rohnert Park Schools doing?

Thanks to outstanding teachers, challenging academic programs and strong support from the community, Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District (CRPUSD) provides a quality education for local students that prepares graduates for college and the workforce.

What challenges face our local schools?

For over a decade, CRPUSD schools have benefited from locally controlled parcel tax funding that cannot be taken away by the State. This funding helps to attract and retain qualified teachers and support quality academic programs. Unless renewed by local voters, this funding is set to expire and CRPUSD will lose approximately \$1.3 million in annual funding.

How exactly could a renewal measure help support our local schools?

If approved by local voters, a parcel tax renewal measure could continue to be used to:

- Improve quality core academic programs including science, technology, engineering and math instruction
- Attract and retain qualified teachers
- Limit increases to class size
- Provide career and job training
- Protect career technical education programs, school librarians and libraries and art and music instruction

What fiscal accountability provisions will be included in renewal measure?

The local school funding renewal measure would continue existing fiscal accountability requirements, including:

- All funds raised by the measure must only go to local CRPUSD schools and cannot be taken away by Sacramento
- An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and mandatory annual audits would continue to ensure funds are spent as promised
- None of the money raised could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions
- Homeowners age 65 and over and low income people with disabilities would be eligible for an exemption

How much would a renewal measure cost?

On November 14, the CRPUSD Board of Education placed a measure on the March 5, 2024 ballot for local voters to consider that would renew the funding that is set to expire. This measure would extend the current rate of \$89 per year without increase taxes.

Would a renewal measure increase taxes?

No. The renewal measure placed on the ballot by CRPUSD's School Board would not increase taxes. Instead, it renews parcel tax funding at its current rate.

Does the State provide funding to help support our schools?

While most CRPUSD funding comes from the State, nationally California ranks 46th out of all 50 states in education funding. One-time Covid funding has helped get the District through the year, but these funds are expiring, which will require cuts.

Didn't we just pass a measure to fund our schools?

In November 2016, local voters supported our local schools with the passage of bond Measure C. Bond measures provide dedicated one-time funding for updating our classrooms and labs for teachers and students. On the other hand, parcel tax revenues allow Districts to invest in ongoing expenditures like teachers and academic programs, which cannot be funded by bond money.

Would senior citizen homeowners be exempt from the cost?

Yes. Senior citizen homeowners would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure.

Would all funds benefit Cotati-Rohnert Park schools only?

All funds from the renewal measure would benefit local schools here in our community only. No funds could be taken by the State or used for other purposes.

I don't have children attending local schools. How would this renewal measure impact me?

Even if you do not have school-age children, quality local schools help keep our community and property values strong.

How can I learn more about the measure and share my thoughts?

We want to hear from you! If you have any questions or input that you would like to share, please contact Chief Business Official, John Bartolome at john_bartolome@crpusd.org.