

Prop 30 passed. What does this mean for our schools?

As you may know, Proposition 30 was passed by California voters on November 6, 2012. Also called "The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012," it heads off billions of dollars in cuts to public education and will keep schools funded at the same level as 2011-12.

Q: Does the district get more money with Prop 30?

A: Prop 30 funding to schools has already been included in the budget adopted by the Board of Education for this year. The state will now fund schools at the same levels as in 2011-2012. This means that our baseline resources will remain underfunded by 22 percent as we have been describing since the adoption of our 2012-13 budget in June.

Q: Do we still have furlough days for this year?

A: SFUSD will have to maintain cuts in the current year's budget, including furlough (forced closure, unpaid) days when schools and central offices are closed. Central office departments will be closed for 2 furlough days: Dec. 24 and Dec 31. Schools will be closed for 1.5 days: May 31 (half day, also the last day of school) and June 3 (full day, does not affect class time as the school year will be completed.)

Q: Does Prop 30 mean next year's budget will be better than this year's?

A: Prop 30 will prevent mid-year cuts to schools. Without the passage of Prop 30, there would have been deep cuts this school year. The passage of Prop 30 simply means these additional cuts are avoided for the time being. It is unclear at this point whether schools will receive any more funding next year than this year, but funding in both years would have been reduced significantly had it not not passed.

Q: What if I want to have a say in how money is spent at my child's school, or the district?

A: All our schools have an open and collaborative process, conducted by each School Site Council (SSC), to determine a school's budget. Contact your school Principal for your school's community meeting times. Additionally, the SF Board of Education and District officials hold open meetings at which the district budget plan for the upcoming school year is discussed. Meeting times will be posted on the school district's home page and at school sites.

Q: How long do we get Prop 30 funding?

A: Prop 30 funding is already included in the budget adopted by the Board of Education for this year. The income tax increases are in place for seven years, and sales taxes increases will last for four years.

Q: How do I know the Prop 30 revenues will be managed well and SFUSD gets funding?

A: Revenues will go into a new Education Protection Account within the state's General Fund and none can be used for administrative costs. Use of the money will be accounted for publicly, and annual audits by school boards and state Controller will be conducted.