

Performing and Visual Arts Specific

Prior to the referendum,

- Funding had been slashed for music and art programs.
- Band uniforms were the responsibility of parents and booster clubs.
- There was no dedicated funding for art supplies so materials varied from school to school.
- Strings and guitars were seldom offered.

How the referendum is impacting Performing Arts

- Student participation has tripled in strings and guitar programs. In 2015/16, there were 100 string classes and 79 guitar classes. Strings are offered at 10 elementary schools.
- ALL Middle and High Schools offer choral and instrumental classes. There are 17 All County groups ranging from Elementary Choir to High School Jazz Band.
- Pinellas now offers digital music and sound engineering classes.
- 14 High School Auditoriums sound and lighting were redone.
- The referendum purchases supplies like sheet music, instruments and risers.
- Instrument rental fees are waived for students who can't afford them and High Schools have band uniforms.

How the referendum is impacting Visual Arts

- The referendum purchases supplies like paint, paper and easels.
- All high and middle schools have arts computer labs and 24 elementary schools offer digital art.
- Over 1,000 field trips have allowed over 30,000 students to learn outside the classroom in subjects like art, social studies and math.
- Art classroom libraries are fully stocked and annually expanded with art books and magazines.
- Students can participate in a Summer Digital Arts camp which is so popular plans are in process to double available student seats the summer of 2017.
- Students are highlighted in art exhibits and regularly receive top awards.

The Pinellas School Referendum Quick Facts

- This is not a new tax. It was first approved by voters in 2004, renewed in 2008 and 2012.
- Costs the average Pinellas household \$65.57 this year.
- Is locally controlled. Not a dime goes to Tallahassee.
- 100% stays in Pinellas Classrooms.
- All expenditures are overseen by an independent citizens oversight committee.
- Good schools support higher property values and are good for our economy because they supply an educated work force and encourage business relocation. An educated population results in lower crime rates and less strain on social programs.



APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION OF ONE-HALF MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES

Shall the Pinellas County School District ad valorem millage of one-half mill per year be continued beginning July 1, 2017 and ending four fiscal years later on June 30, 2021, for necessary operating expenses including funds to recruit and retain teachers; preserve reading programs and music and art classes; and provide up-to-date textbooks and technology, with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight committee?

_____ YES _____ NO

Recruit and retain quality teachers

- For 2016/17, teachers will receive a salary stipend of \$3,827 helping us recruit the 400-600 new teachers we need each year.
- The most current reports (2014/15) show even with the referendum, Pinellas teachers make less than teachers in Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota. If the referendum were to fail, we could lose many of our best teachers to districts paying higher salaries.

Preserve reading programs

- All students who are not reading at grade level receive remediation every day.
- Since renewal, referendum funds have purchased over \$1.28 million in books, e-readers and laptops.
- Prior to the referendum, all summer school had been eliminated. Now referendum funds help supply materials and training for the Summer Bridge program.

Provide up-to-date textbooks and technology

- Before the referendum, district resources went to maintenance rather than new technologies.
- Programs allow students to study the same curriculum at each student's reading level.
- Installed over 2,300 Smart Boards, with a goal of 100% of elementary classrooms by Aug. 2017

Learn more www.citizensforpinellaschools.com or www.pcsb.org/referendum