

# Measure G

Recommendations to the  
OUSD Board of Directors

March 2018

A decorative graphic consisting of a diagonal line that starts from the bottom left and goes towards the top right. The area below the line is filled with a solid blue color, and the area above the line is white. The line itself is a thin, dark blue line.

# Measure G Parcel Tax Independent Citizens Oversight Committee



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#OAKEDU

# Ask

- Adopt a Measure G allocation policy that makes the process and the strategy clear to the public.

# Because...

- this will lead to Measure G better serving Oakland's students.
- this is a strong step towards rebuilding trust with the community.

# Overview

1. Measure G Facts
2. Committee Engagement
3. Key Findings & Recommendations
4. Solutions Explored
5. Questions?

# Measure G Facts

- **\$195 tax per parcel** with exemptions for low income households
- Revenue is about **\$20 million annually** (N and G1 are about ~\$12m each)
- Funds are allocated to the **Unrestricted General Fund**
- This parcel tax **does not expire**
- Unlike N and G1, there is **no grant application process**

# Committee Engagement

# Committee Activity

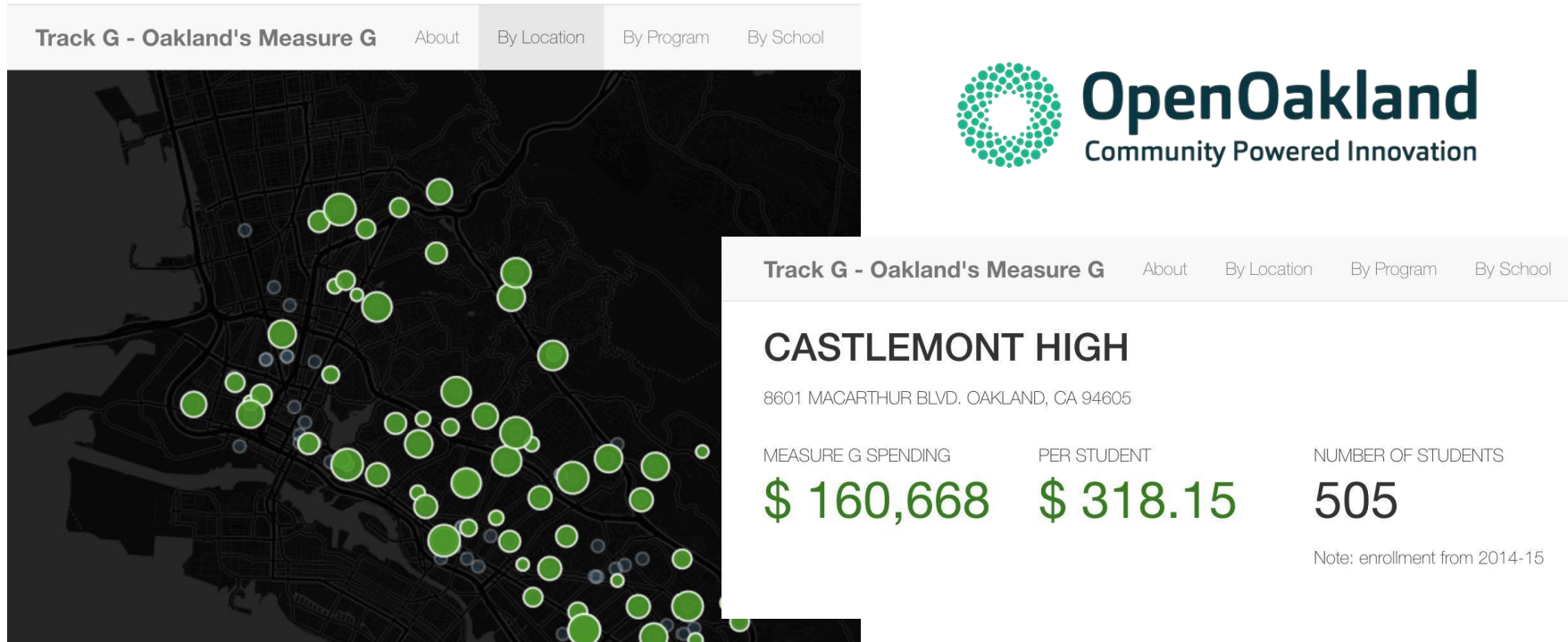
Since 2014, the Measure G Committee has:

- Reviewed Measure G financials
- Received reports from staff on programmatic impact of Measure G funds
- Listened to public comments



# TrackG.org

A website for the public to review 5 years of Measure G spending data





# Interviews and Research



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# Interviews: Oakland

## Appendix A



- Measure N Committee Chair
- Measure N grantee
- District librarian
- Friends of Oakland Public School Libraries
- TrackG.org maintainers and users



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# Research: Neighboring Districts

## Appendix B

- Alameda
- Berkeley
- Fremont
- Piedmont
- San Jose (Participatory Budgeting)



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# Key Findings & Recommendations

# Key Findings

1. Transparency Needed: Allocation Process Is Not Clear
2. Impact Strategy Is Not Clear
3. Better Collaboration Is Needed Between Sites And Central
4. Allocations Are Not Consistent Or Predictable
5. Measure G Is Not Considered A Restricted Resource

# 1. Transparency Needed: Allocation Process Is Not Clear

## **Key Question:**

Who decides how Measure G is spent?

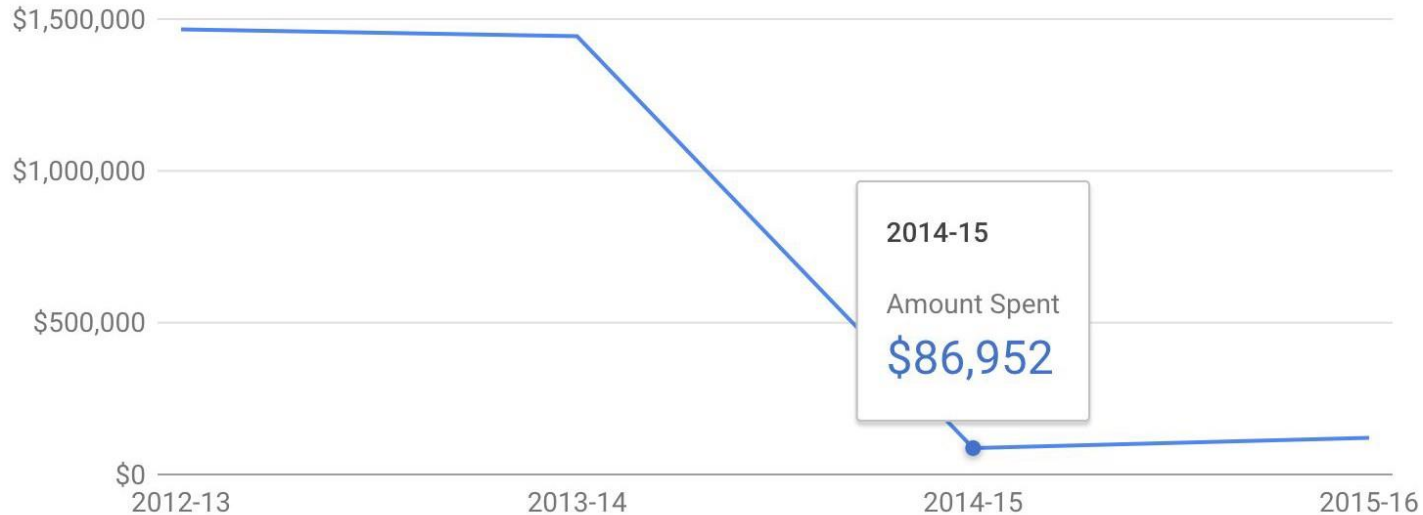
## **Recommendations to the Board:**

- Adopt a clear process for allocating Measure G funds.
- Publish that process so that the public is aware of it.
- Adjust the process over time with community input and program assessment to maximize transparency and impact.

## 2. Impact Strategy Is Not Clear

### Key Question:

Why does spending change from year-to-year?



## 2. Impact Strategy Is Not Clear

### **Recommendations to the Board:**

- During budget development, publish an allocating strategy for Measure G along with a rationale and a way to assess that strategy. Present the plan to the Measure G Committee.
- Adjust over time to maximize impact and take schools' needs into account.
- Consider Measure G in context with other Measures (G1, N) and consider pooling resources (within the scope of the law) to increase impact and process efficiency.



# 3. Better Collaboration Is Needed Between Sites And Central

## Key Question:

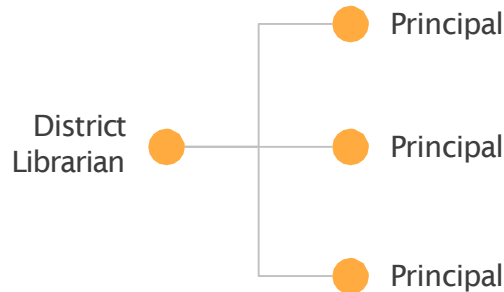
How do we strike the right balance of autonomy, efficiency, and accountability?

### Program Leaders

Districtwide strategy and vision

Bulk purchase power

Program accountability



### School Leaders

Site needs and vision

Limited capacity

Community accountability

# 3. Better Collaboration Is Needed Between Sites And Central

## **Recommendations to the Board:**

- Develop a Measure G allocation and evaluation process which values the site leader's time and knowledge of their community's needs while also holding them accountable.
- Consider consolidating or reusing existing, well-functioning processes for accessing funds rather than creating new ones which require more time from school leaders.

## 4. Allocations Are Not Consistent Or Predictable

94%

was spent on salaries and benefits last school year

### **Recommendation to the Board:**

- When acting on the findings and recommendations in this report, make consistency and predictability a top priority.

# 5. Measure G Is Not Considered A Restricted Resource

Parcel Tax	Resource Code	Restricted?
Measure N	9333	✓
Measure G1	9332	✓
Measure G	0089	✗

## Recommendation to the Board:

- Reclassify Measure G as a restricted resource as part of the transition to the new Escape financial management system.

Solutions  
Explored

# Solutions Explored

- A. Central Strategy And Program Pitches
- B. Proposals / Pooling With Measure N
- C. Per Student Formula
- D. Participatory Budgeting
- E. Mix And Match

# Option A: Central Strategy And Program Pitches

- Superintendent sets a strategy for Measure G funds over a 2-3 year period
- Allow Measure G program leaders (arts, libraries, etc) to pitch plans for funds
- Once allocations are made, publish the strategy and program plans

## Advantages

- Longer term strategy
- Autonomy and accountability for program leaders
- Opportunity for programs to innovate in allocation process

## Considerations

- A lot of responsibility for program leaders
- Strong facilitation needed to document and share learnings amongst programs

# Option B: Proposals / Pooling With Measure N

- Maintaining courses that help qualify students for college and enhancing student achievement are appropriate uses of Measure G.
- Make Measure G funds available to high schools through the Measure N proposal process.

## **Advantages**

- Aligns with strategic investment in Linked Learning.
- Utilizes the existing Measure N proposal process.

## **Considerations**

- Measure N is only relevant for high schools.



# Option C: Per Student Formula

- Use a formula to allocate across the district or within programs
- Take Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) factors into account

## **Advantages**

- Provides clarity and predictability.

## **Considerations**

- Formulas make strategic concentrations difficult.
- Outside funding is not taken into account (grants, PTAs, etc).

# Option D: Participatory Budgeting

- Measure G program leaders work with committees to provide a menu of options to school site councils (SSCs).
- School site councils lead their community through a voting process.
- The selected option could be funded and implemented as part of a school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).

## Advantages

- Community directly involved in Measure G allocation.
- Possible Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) support.

## Considerations

- Case studies show lots of support is needed for success.
- Traditionally only spending on materials and experiences, not staff.

# Option X: Mix and Match!

We feel a hybrid of these approaches could lead to the best results.

## **For example:**

- Make Measure G funds available to high schools through Measure N
- Allow middle school SSCs to select from a menu of enrichment options through a participatory budgeting process.
- Make a strategic 3 year investment in libraries at the elementary level

# Ask

- Adopt a Measure G allocation policy that makes the process and the strategy clear to the public.

# Because...

- this will lead to Measure G better serving Oakland's students.
- this is a strong step towards rebuilding trust with the community.

Visit [TrackG.org](https://TrackG.org)

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Questions?

# Appendix

# Measure G - Approved Uses

- attract and retain highly qualified teachers
- maintain courses that help students qualify for college
- maintain up-to-date textbooks and instructional materials
- keep class sizes small
- continue after school academic programs
- maintain school libraries
- **provide programs, including art and music programs, that enhance student achievement**