



## Supporting Student Success with Great Teachers and Academic Programs

Petaluma City Schools (PCS) provides a high-quality education for 7,200 students attending seven elementary schools, 10 secondary schools and an adult education school serving the greater Petaluma area. Thanks to excellent teachers and strong support for local schools from parents and the community, local students graduate prepared for college and in-demand careers.

### School Funding Challenges

Nationally, California ranks among the lowest in funding per student provided to public schools and PCS receives far less funding than many school districts in the North Bay. As a result, over the last three years, PCS has lost close to 40% of local teachers. Petaluma is losing teachers to other nearby school districts that offer higher compensation. Many Petaluma teachers and school employees have had to take on second and even third jobs in order to support themselves and their families.



### Retaining Qualified Teachers and Supporting Instructional Programs

Having a great teacher in the classroom is the most important element of providing a quality education for students. Qualified and experienced teachers support high-quality instruction in science, technology, engineering, math, reading, writing, arts and music.

### Local Funding for Teachers and Academic Programs

On November 14, our Board of Education voted to place local education parcel tax measures on the ballot for local voters to consider on the March 5, 2024 ballot. If approved by 66.7% of local voters, funds could be used in elementary, junior high and high schools to:

- Attract and retain excellent teachers
- Expand art, music and language programs
- Enhance science, technology, engineering and math programs
- Maintain smaller class sizes
- Provide counseling to support students
- Provide school librarians and keep school libraries open

### Fiscal Accountability and Local Control

Local education parcel tax measures would include fiscal accountability protections, including:

- Funding would be controlled locally and could not be taken away by the State
- None of the money raised could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions
- Public disclosure of all spending, independent citizens' oversight and mandatory annual audits would ensure funds are spent as promised
- Homeowners age 65 and over and low income homeowners with disabilities would be eligible for an exemption

### We Want to Hear from You!

We welcome your input and opinions. For more information or to ask questions, please contact [communications@petk12.org](mailto:communications@petk12.org).