Frequently Asked Questions about Measure A

Following are answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the implementation of Measure A. We hope these FAQs will make transparent the policies and procedures AUSD will follow for the implementation of Measure A. The FAQs are also posted on the AUSD website at http://www.alameda.k12.ca.us, where there are links to new forms for requesting exemptions from the tax and for appealing for a correction of tax bills.

How will the revenues generated by Measure A be spent?

Revenues raised by Measure A are authorized to be used only for those educational programs and activities set forth in the eleven specific categories set forth in Measure A itself, in accordance with priorities annually established by the Board and to the extent of available funds. The Measure A Oversight Committee will meet several times over the course of the year to review AUSD’s compliance with the terms of Measure A.

For 2011/12, the Board made the following allocations to the eleven specific categories established by Measure A: (1) Maintaining Small Class Sizes: 13-14%; (2) Maintaining High Quality Neighborhood Elementary Schools: 7-8%; (3) Secondary School Choice Initiative and AP Courses: 7-8%; (4) Programs to Close the Achievement Gap: 15-16%; (5) High School Athletics Programs: 4%; (6) Enrichment Programs: 9-10%; (7) Attract and Retain Excellent Teachers: 25-26%; (8) Counseling and Student Support Services: 6%; (9) Alameda Charter Schools: 3-4%; (10) Technology: 5% and (11) Adult Education: 4%.

How is my tax assessment under Measure A calculated?

Measure A assesses all non-exempt parcels with buildings at a rate of $0.32 per building square foot, up to a maximum of $7,999. It assesses all non-exempt parcels without buildings at $299.

How can I check what my tax assessment will be under Measure A?

Property owners may check their Measure A tax assessments by using AUSD’s “look up tool” on the Measure A page of the AUSD website and typing in their address.

What should I do if I disagree with the building square footage that was used to calculate my tax assessment under Measure A?

Measure A states that in determining the building square footage of Taxable Real Property, AUSD shall refer to the data reported by the County Office of Assessor, except in cases of demonstrable error.

Any person seeking to appeal the building square footage used to determine his/her assessment under Measure A must first complete and file a Property Characteristic Change Form at the County Office of the Assessor. The Property Characteristic Change Form is available on the Measure A page of the AUSD website and from the County Office of Assessor.
Frequently Asked Questions about Measure A

If the Assessor grants the requested change, the person must then submit a copy of the Property Characteristic Change Form, including evidence confirming the Assessor’s approval of the requested change, and a Measure A Parcel Tax Correction Application to AUSD’s Parcel Tax Administrator at the following address: PARCEL TAX ADMINISTRATOR, Attn: AUSD Measure A Appeal, 4745 Mangels Blvd., Fairfield, CA 94534.

The Measure A Parcel Tax Correction Application is available on the Measure A page of the AUSD website. Measure A Parcel Tax Correction Applications may also be requested by phone by calling AUSD’s Parcel Tax Administrator at (800) 273-5167.

It is important to note that the filing of a Property Characteristic Change Form does not relieve any person of the responsibility to pay the tax assessment. In order to avoid default and other negative consequences that may ensue for failure to pay this and any other tax assessments, all taxpayers should pay the full assessed amount while their request is being processed.

What should I do if I disagree with my tax assessment under Measure A for a reason other than the building square footage used to calculate the tax?

Any person seeking a correction for Measure A on their property tax bill for any other reason than the building square footage used to calculate the tax must submit a Measure A Parcel Tax Correction Application to AUSD’s Parcel Tax Administrator at the following address: PARCEL TAX ADMINISTRATOR, Attn: AUSD Measure A Appeal, 4745 Mangels Blvd., Fairfield, CA 94534.

Are senior citizens and people receiving SSI exempt from Measure A, as they have been for previous school parcel taxes in Alameda?

Yes. Individuals who have already received exemptions that were under the previous school parcel taxes, Measure H and the old Measure A, will continue to receive those exemptions and do not need to re-apply for exemptions to the new Measure A.

Any person who is 65 years of age or older and who owns and occupies a parcel of Taxable Real Property as his/her principal place of residence, may apply for an exemption from the tax for that parcel. Any person who receives Supplemental Social Security Income and who owns and occupies a parcel of Taxable Real Property as his/her principal place of residence may apply for an exemption from the tax for that parcel.

The “Senior” Exemption Request Form and “SSI” Exemption Request Form are available on the Measure A page of the AUSD website. Applications may also be requested by phone by calling AUSD’s Parcel Tax Administrator at (800) 273-5167. Questions about the “Senior” Exemption Request Form and “SSI” Exemption Request Form should be directed to AUSD’s parcel tax administrator at (800) 273-5167.

How long should I expect an appeal or request for a refund to take?

The District and its parcel tax administrator will make every reasonable effort to respond promptly to any appeal and to issue any refund that is due. Except in extraordinary circumstances, District staff will respond no later than 60 days after an appeal or request for refund is submitted to AUSD’s Parcel Tax Administrator. Following the District’s response, the property owner may appeal District staff’s response to the Superintendent within 21 days of receiving staff’s response. The Superintendent will issue a final and binding decision on the appeal or refund within 30 days of receiving the appeal.