



Referendum funds strengthen reading, art and music programs, provide up-to-date technology, and help recruit and retain quality teachers. Pinellas County voters supported the half-mill property tax in 2004, 2008 and 2012, all times by large margins. An independent citizens committee oversees the distribution of funds to ensure the money is spent as voters intended. *Every penny of the money collected through the Referendum is locally controlled and goes to Pinellas County teachers and students.*

### **Thanks to the Referendum, Pinellas County Schools has:**

#### **Strengthened Reading Programs**

- Every reading classroom and every content classroom (such as math, science and social studies) is equipped with a classroom library filled with diverse and up-to-date materials to supplement core instruction.
- The Leveled Literacy Intervention program was expanded to all elementary schools. The intensive, small group reading program is for students in grades K-2 who need extra assistance to achieve grade-level proficiency.
- Funds continue to provide middle and high school reading classrooms with materials that would not otherwise be available, including instructional software, engaging fiction and non-fiction, magazines and newspapers.
- Teachers have the opportunity to attend trainings with nationally recognized literacy experts.

#### **Invigorated Visual Arts Programs**

- All schools have equitable funding for quality art supplies, equipment and technology that help students learn new skills and produce strong, award-winning works of art.
- All high schools, as well as several elementary and middle schools, have digital arts computer labs.
- Thousands of students have participated in hundreds of field trips to art museums and galleries, exposing children to fine art. Since the Referendum was renewed, about 32,000 students have participated in field trips to museums and galleries.

#### **Revitalized Performing Arts Programs**

- All elementary music classes received musical instruments. All schools have received supplies, such as band room furniture, risers, microphones and music stands, as needed, to ensure equity among music programs throughout the district.
- Instrument rental fees are waived for children who cannot afford them.
- The district has rebuilt string orchestra programs. Without Referendum funds, there would be no funding for string instruments, supplies, string teachers, string coaches and the All County string program.
- Nearly every high school has had their auditorium sound systems upgraded.

#### **Provided Enriching Up-To-Date Technology**

- Interactive Smart Boards have been installed in classrooms throughout the district, helping teachers provide engaging lessons. Teachers receive training and coaching in the use of this technology.
- Teachers have more access to digital resources beyond core curriculum.
- Funds cover maintenance, repairs and replacement parts to keep technology running and updated.

#### **Recruited and Retained Quality Teachers**

- Eighty percent of Referendum revenue supplements teacher salaries, demonstrating the high value placed on recruiting and keeping quality teachers in Pinellas. The Referendum is providing each teacher a supplement of \$3,827 for the 2016-17 school year.