

Referendum 2020: Quick Facts



Referendum funds strengthen reading, music and art programs; provide current technology and textbooks; and help recruit and retain quality teachers. Pinellas County voters have renewed the Referendum every four years, by large margins, since the half-mill property tax was approved in 2004. An independent committee oversees the distribution of funds to ensure money is spent as voters intended. Every penny collected through the Referendum is locally controlled and supports Pinellas County teachers and students. The Referendum costs the average single-family homeowner with a homestead exemption about \$7.15 a month.

High-Quality Teachers

- Eighty percent of the Referendum revenue supplements teacher salaries, demonstrating the high value Pinellas County Schools places on recruiting and retaining quality teachers.
- Each teacher receives a salary supplement of \$5,321 for the 2020-2021 school year as part of their base salary.

Invigorated Visual Arts Programs

- All schools receive equitable funding for quality art supplies, equipment and technology that help students produce strong and award-winning works of art.
- Each year, nearly 14,000 students, including those whose families are not able to afford admission fees, participate in field trips to local art museums and venues.
- Students have growing opportunities to collaborate with local artists and arts organizations for innovative learning experiences and schoolwide art projects.
- Improved resources and teacher training are raising the bar for student artwork, which is showcased at 19 art exhibitions at museums and galleries in our community.

Revitalized Performing Arts Programs

- All schools receive funding for music, theater and dance equipment, technology, sound systems, uniforms and materials that support award-winning performing arts programs.
- Pinellas was able to rebuild its string orchestra program. Without the Referendum, there would be no funding for string instruments, string teachers and the All County string program.
- Teachers and students have opportunities to work with nationally recognized conductors, artists and clinicians.
- Partnerships with professional arts organizations bring performing artists into schools, support field trips and performance opportunities for 15,000 students each year.

Stronger Reading Programs

- A literacy intervention program for struggling readers in grades K-2 supports students in all Pinellas elementary schools.
- All math, science and social studies classrooms are equipped with diverse and up-to-date reading materials to supplement core instruction.
- Middle and high school reading classrooms receive materials that would not otherwise be available, including instructional software, and engaging fiction and nonfiction.
- Teachers have opportunities to train with nationally recognized literacy experts.

Up-To-Date Technology

- Students throughout the district have access to computer labs and updated technology that prepare them for college and careers.
- Interactive whiteboards and projectors have been installed in classrooms throughout the district to help teachers provide engaging lessons.
- Teachers have access to high-quality software applications that promote student engagement and provide access to internet resources in a safe environment.
- Highly skilled technology staff train teachers to integrate current technology into their lessons and personalize learning to meet the needs of each student.