

June 15, 2026

Dear Superintendent and OUSD Board of Education,

We, the principals of all Oakland Unified School District high schools, stand united in opposing a proposed district budget action that would illegally redirect funds from Measure N and Measure H to cover general operating expenses our district was already obligated to pay.

This proposal constitutes **supplanting** — and both measures explicitly prohibit it. Measure N states that its funds "can only be used to supplement, and not supplant, unrestricted general fund revenue." Measure H goes further, stating that "the District may not require that an OUSD school expend any funds from the College and Career Account to which it is allocated in one fiscal year in a way that supplants District-directed funding to that school in the prior fiscal year." Teacher salaries and school expenses already budgeted for 2025–26 cannot simply be relabeled as Measure N or H expenditures after the fact. Doing so exposes the district to serious audit findings and legal challenges.

Measure H also requires that funds be distributed only "upon the submission, review, and approval of each school's annual education improvement plan." The proposed action skips this process entirely — a direct violation of what voters approved.

When Oakland voters passed Measure N in 2014 and Measure H in 2022, they were not writing a blank check to the district. They made a deliberate investment in a specific vision: rigorous college and career pathways, career technical education, work-based learning, and student support services that go above and beyond what the district is already required to provide. Many of those voters don't have children in our schools, but they believed in what OUSD promised to deliver. Every time the district spends these dollars in unauthorized ways, it breaks faith with those voters — and puts future school funding measures at risk.

The independent College & Career Readiness Commission exists for exactly this reason. Both measures vest the Commission with explicit responsibility for "oversight of proper allocation and use of all parcel tax monies." It was designed to be independent of the Board so that no single administrator's or superintendent's budget priorities could override what is best for students. The Annual Education Improvement Plan process, which requires each school to assess its needs, set measurable goals, and align spending with evidence-based strategies, makes these investments accountable to parents, auditors, and voters alike. When schools have engaged this process with fidelity, the results are real: higher graduation rates, targeted student supports, and programs built on data.

This proposal to appropriate Measure N and H reserves continues a deeply troubling pattern of poor budgeting practices in our district. We have watched one-time funds used to temporarily patch ongoing structural deficits. We have seen supplemental and concentration dollars — intended to serve students of color and economically disadvantaged students — redirected to cover base expenses. The Measure N and H reserves are not a budget backstop. Using them

does not solve the structural deficit; it delays accountability while permanently reducing what our high school students receive.

We are calling on the Board and Superintendent to:

1. **Reject** the proposed journal entries and protect Measure N/H reserves
2. **Affirm** the Commission's independent oversight authority
3. **Commit** to an honest, permanent solution to the district's structural deficit

Our students and our voters deserve nothing less.

Respectfully and unanimously submitted,

The High School Principals of Oakland Unified School District

Alessandra Cabrera, Principal Sojourner Truth, Oakland tax paying property owner
Alykhan Boolani, Principal Life Academy, Oakland tax paying property owner
Amy Carozza, Principal Coliseum College Prep Academy, Oakland property owner
Ana Vasquez, Principal Ralph J. Bunche Academy, Oakland tax paying property owner
Bianca Lorenz, Principal Madison Park Academy 6-12
Carmelita Reyes, Principal Rudsdale High School
Darren L Avent, Co-Principal McClymonds High School
Joseph Blasher, Principal Castlemont High School
Martel Price, Principal Oakland Technical High School, Oakland tax paying property owner
Nidya Baez, Principal Fremont High School, Oakland tax payer
Pamela Moy, Principal Oakland High School, Oakland tax paying property owner
Rebecca Huang, Principal Skyline High School
Shalonda Gregory, Principal MetWest High School
Staci Ross-Morrison, Principal Dewey Academy
Tom Felix, Principal Oakland International High School, Oakland tax paying property owner