October 25, 2026

Dear Superintendent and OUSD Board of Education,

We, the principals of all Oakland Unified School District middle schools, stand united in opposing a proposed district budget action that would illegally redirect funds from Measure G1 to cover general operating expenses at the central office. (26-1727, proposal)

We also thank the Measure G1 Citizen Oversight Commission for rejecting the district's request to recommend that budget action. We support their decision to discuss the issue, draft a report, and pass a unanimous 5-0 recommendation disapproving of the proposed expenditure. (26-1727B, report)

The proposal to use unspent Measure G1 funds earmarked for site-directed plans to expand arts, music, world language, and student culture in order to retroactively pay for six central office FTEs is clearly against both the spirit and letter of the measures ballot language. Measure G1 states that "35% of Total Revenues [shall] provide Middle School grants." Using reserved funds that are derived from that 35% of total revenues to cover central office salaries dating from 2021-22 to 2026-27 is a clear violation of both the measure itself and the trust of Oakland voters who approved the measure. Doing so exposes the district to serious audit findings and legal challenges.

Measure G1 also requires that "Middle School grants shall be distributed to Middle Schools pursuant to the Local Control Funding Formula methodology upon the submission, review, and approval by the Board of Education 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 G1 in 2016, they were not writing a blank check to the district. They made a deliberate investment in a specific vision: a salary increase to school-site educators district-wide, including charter schools in the District, and to provide Middle School grants which shall be allocated pursuant to the Education Improvement Plan with the intent of increasing teacher retention and improving our middle schools. 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 Measure G1 Citizen Oversight Commission exists for exactly this reason. The measure vests the Commission with explicit responsibility to "advise and report to the Board of Education and shall be responsible for oversight, which includes 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 makes these investments accountable to parents, auditors, and voters alike. When schools have engaged this process with fidelity, the results are real: increased access to courses in arts, music, and world

languages in grades 6-8 and the creation of a more positive and safe middle-school learning environment.

This proposal to appropriate Measure G1 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. Last spring, we even saw $3.5M in Measure N and H reserves confiscated in order to cover general spending at high schools outside of the site-directed EIP process. The Measure G1 reserves are not a budget backstop. Using them does not solve the structural deficit; it delays accountability while permanently reducing what our middle school students receive.
If the contents of this letter sound familiar, it is because all 15 OUSD high school principals signed a very similar letter June 15, 2026 discouraging the Board and Superintendent from misusing Measure N and Measure H funds to cover general operating expenses that our district was already obligated to pay.

We stand united in calling on the Board and Superintendent to:

1. **Repay** the $3.5M in Measure N and H funds that were confiscated from their reserves fund
2. **Reject** the proposed spending on central office FTEs and protect Measure G1 reserves
3. **Return** the $5.0M moved outside of the central accounting budget line item where G1 reserves are held in trust
4. **Affirm** the Measure G1 Commission's independent oversight authority
5. **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 Middle School Principals of Oakland Unified School District

Emily Rasmussen, Principal, Bret Harte Middle School
Amy Carozza, Principal, Coliseum College Prep Academy
Jonathan Tran, Principal, Edna Brewer Middle School
Viet-Ly Gonzalez, Principal, Elmhurst United Middle School
Kate Moseley, Principal, Greenleaf TK-8
Annie Hatch, Principal Hillcrest K-8
Alykhan Boolani, Principal, Life Academy, 6-12
Kateri Dodds, Assistant Principal, Life Academy, 6-12
Bianca Lorenz, Principal, Madison Park Academy 6-12
Jonathan Mayer, Principal, Melrose Leadership Academy TK-8
Dr. Latoya Williams, Principal, Montera Middle School
Joao Solomon, Principal, Roosevelt Middle School
Alessandra Cabrera, Principal, Sojourner Truth Independent Study
Tierre Mesa, Principal, Urban Promise Academy

Sara Allen, Principal, United For Success Academy
Neha Ummat, Principal, West Oakland Middle School
Dr. Lucinda Taylor, Principal Westlake Middle School