What is Measure A?
Measure A is a local school measure placed on the May 8, 2012 Mail Ballot Only election by the Santa Clara Unified School District Governing Board. If approved, it will provide approximately $2.3 million per year in local education funding.

The Measure A ballot question reads:
"To maintain the quality of our local schools and core academic programs in math and science, keep libraries open, attract and retain the best qualified teachers and staff, and to provide up-to-date textbooks and classroom technology, shall the Santa Clara Unified School District levy an annual assessment of $84 a year per parcel for five years only, with exemptions for seniors, and all money staying in our community to benefit local schools?"

What programs will Measure A funds support?
Measure A will provide ongoing, local funding to:
- Maintain core academic programs in math, science and technology
- Keep school libraries open
- Attract and retain the most qualified teachers and support staff
- Provide up-to-date classroom technology, textbooks and instructional materials
- Maintain manageable class sizes

Why is Measure A needed?
Due to continued uncertainty and reductions in educational funding, the district has been forced to reduce the number of instructional days and teacher positions. Over the last ten years, our schools have lost $35 million in support from state and local property tax sources. Class sizes at all levels have increased, elementary music programs have been cut, support staff has been reduced, and summer school and other intervention programs have been eliminated. In addition, SCUSD has depleted nearly all of its reserve funds to deal with this ongoing budget situation. Measure A will provide stable local funding needed to help protect a quality education in our neighborhood schools.

What will happen if Measure A does not pass?
Measure A won’t solve all the problems created by the State budget crisis, but it will help limit the most devastating cuts to classrooms and instruction. Without Measure A, our schools will decrease instructional time, and eliminate teaching positions and library time. Without Measure A, essentials like reading, math, science, music and art, qualified teachers, early academic interventions and up-to-date classroom technology and instructional materials needed to prepare our students to succeed will be impacted.

Can’t the District find the resources it needs by cutting administration and waste?
No. The District has already cut administration to the bare minimum required to keep students safe and deliver a basic quality education.
How can I be sure Measure A funds will be spent properly?
By law, Measure A funds can only be spent as described in the measure and these funds cannot be taken away by the State. An advisory committee of citizens shall be appointed by the Board to review that the special tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes.

What is the difference between a school construction bond measure and a parcel tax?
A parcel tax is a flat assessment on each parcel of land. Unlike school bond measures, which can only be used to fund school facility improvements, parcel tax revenues can be used to fund programs and services. The current construction in the district is the result of a successful bond measure approved by the voters. School districts usually use parcel tax revenues to preserve, restore or enhance instructional programs. A parcel tax measure in California requires two-thirds (66.7%) approval from registered voters who vote in the election where the parcel tax measure appears on the ballot. No revenue generated by a local parcel tax can be taken away by the State. All parcel tax revenue stays local to benefit local schools.

What about the 49er Stadium Pass-thru Funds?
Like this parcel tax, the 49er Stadium Pass-thru funds are only a part of the solution in response to the effects of the massive State budget cuts to education.

Do other school districts have a parcel tax?
Yes, SCUSD is one of the few South Bay districts not supported by a voter-approved parcel tax.

I don’t have children in the schools. How will Measure A benefit me?
Quality schools contribute to a quality community. Resale values of homes in our community are directly affected by the quality of our neighborhood schools. Good schools protect property values.

Is there an exemption available for seniors?
Yes. To ensure the cost of Measure A is not a burden to those living on a fixed income, seniors age 65 and older can apply to be exempt from the cost of Measure A.

How much will Measure A cost?
Measure A will cost property owners approximately $7 per month.

Who will vote on Measure A?
All registered voters who live within the Santa Clara Unified School District are eligible to vote on Measure A. To pass, Measure A must receive at least 66.7% support from those who vote.

What important dates do I need to remember?
- Election Day is May 8, 2012. This is a Mail Ballot Only Election. All ballots must be received by 8pm. There are no polling places.
- Ballots mailed to homes on or about April 9, 2012.
- The last day to register to vote in this election is April 23, 2012.

Who do I contact about District budget issues?
If you have questions and/or feedback about the district budget and/or programs, please contact Bobbie Plough, Ed.D., Superintendent, Santa Clara Unified School District at: bplough@scusd.net.