



NOVATO
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2017
to
June 30, 2018

Parcel Tax Funds Highlights

- ◆ *Attract/retain high quality teachers*
- ◆ *Avoid significant increases in class sizes*
- ◆ *Protecting music, arts and athletics programs*
- ◆ *Maintaining school library staff and operating hours*
- ◆ *Keeping secondary school counselors*

2018-2019 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Members

- Alan Harris
- Ross Ingels
- Scott Keen
- Michelle Roberts
- Jackie Sissel
- Wendy Sissel
- Lisa Swanson
- Diane Gasson—Trustee
(non-voting)



1015 Seventh Street, Novato CA 94945 • 415.897.4201

Parcel Tax - Measure A: To Preserve Quality Education in Novato Schools

About the Parcel Tax: Since 1992, local voters in Novato have generously supported a parcel tax that has provided stable, local funding to maintain quality education in our schools. In 2014, voters renewed Measure A, a \$251 per parcel tax. This Parcel Tax renewal began July 1, 2015, continues for a period of eight (8) years, and includes a Senior Citizen Exemption, Supplemental Security Income Exemption, and a Social Security Disability Insurance Exemption.



NUSD's Parcel Tax provides \$4.16 million per year and calls for independent oversight to monitor the expenditures of the taxes collected. All Parcel Tax funds stay in Novato schools under local control. Nothing can be taken by the State, and no funds can be used for administrative salaries. This Report provides an overview of the how the funds were spent in the last year.

The purpose of the Parcel Tax is to fund the following specific types of programs and services:



QUALITY TEACHERS CLASS SIZE & COUNSELORS

Attract and retain high-quality teachers and school employees. Avoid significant increases in class size in all grades and secondary counselor ratios.

ATHLETICS

Maintain athletics programs, including funding all athletic coaches, equipment safety refurbishment, and officials fees.

MUSIC

Maintain music and performing arts programs for 1st through 12th grades, providing a well-rounded education for Novato kids.

LIBRARIES

Provide library support, including all site library techs, software, and library programs in the district.

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Superintendent

Yancy Hawkins
*Asst Superintendent,
Business and
Operations*

Ashley Albertson
*Executive Assistant to
Asst Superintendent,
Business and
Operations*

Questions?

Email us at:
ParcelTax@nUSD.org

Find us on the web at
[www.nUSD.org/
committees/
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citizens-oversight-
committee](http://www.nUSD.org/committees/parcel-tax-citizens-oversight-committee)

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2017 - 2018 Annual Report



Letter from the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee:

Thank you for your continued support through the parcel tax measure originally passed in 1992, and renewed in 1997, 2005, 2009, and 2014. Your tax dollars directly benefit our students in the following areas:

- Attracting and retaining qualified teachers and staff
- Avoiding significant increases in class size
- Secondary counseling services
- Music and performing arts programs
- Library support
- Athletics programs

It is the duty of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee to ensure that the proceeds from the parcel tax are spent as intended. We are pleased to report that NUSD is allocating funds in alignment with the ballot language to directly benefit our children. Our parcel tax committee, currently seven members, oversees the \$4.15 million annual budget and provides an annual report to the NUSD Board of Trustees.

Looking forward, we have some fresh faces recently appointed to the Parcel Tax Committee for the 2018-19 year. We have had a new member onboarding meeting and enthusiastic about committee meetings with our new members.

The Parcel Tax Oversight Committee meetings are conducted under The Brown Act. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome observers. Past and future meeting information is available at www.nUSD.org.

Thank you for supporting the children of Novato.

Sincerely,

Alan Harris
Ross Ingels
Scott Keen
Lisa Swanson

Michelle Roberts
Jackie Sissel
Wendy Sissel



MUSIC & ART PROGRAMS

With the support of the Novato Community, NUSD's music and art programs have received ongoing financial support from the Novato Parcel Tax and the School Fuel Foundation.

Our music program begins in elementary school providing instruction to first through fifth grade students.

Students begin learning musical notes and rhythms in first grade, and are introduced to music instruments in fourth and fifth grade.

Students have the opportunity to continue with a concentrated formal program of music instruction beginning in sixth grade and continuing through grade twelve.

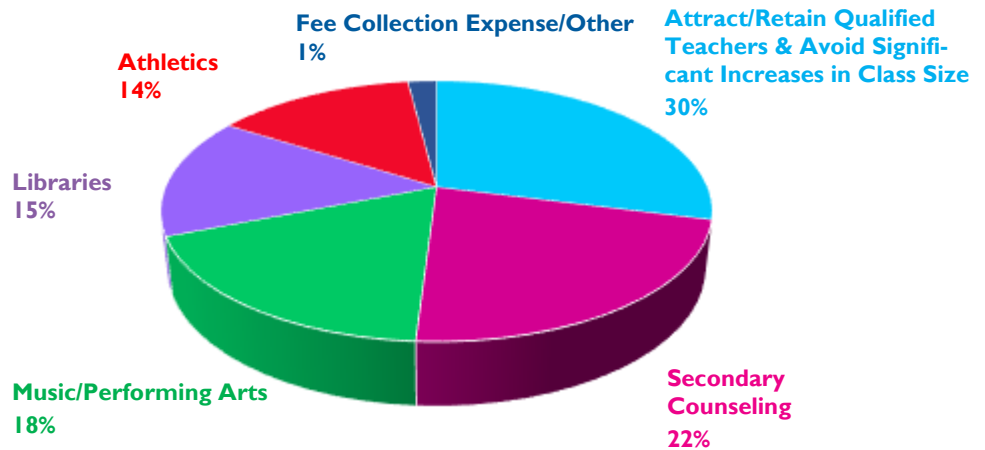
Novato High School offers MSA, a specialized program for students who are passionate about the arts. The MSA provides traditional, strong academics combined with college-level arts training.

San Marin High School offers San Marin Arts and Technical Arts (smARTt). This is an integrated group of approved classes which include, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Writing Arts, and Technical Arts.

The community's commitment to ensure that the visual and performing arts is an integral part of Novato's educational programs has provided equal opportunities to all students who are enrolled in our schools.

An Accounting of Your Parcel Tax Dollars

- ⇒ The current parcel tax is \$251, and has not increased since 2009
- ⇒ The number of paid parcels dropped from 16,603 in 2016-17 to 16,585 in 2017-18 (drop is due to additional senior exemptions)
- ⇒ In 2017-18, your parcel tax dollars funded 44.2 full-time employees and 88 Athletic coaching positions
 - **2017-18 Parcel Tax Revenues = \$4,162,792**
 - **2017-18 Parcel Tax Expenditures = \$4,105,571**



Parcel Tax: Use of Funds

Attracting/Retaining Qualified and Experienced Teachers & Avoiding Significant Increases in Class Size	\$1,213,377	30%
Secondary Counseling	\$921,424	22%
Music/Performing Arts	\$758,930	18%
Libraries	\$609,771	15%
Athletics	\$553,850	14%
Site Allocations/ Fee Collection Expense	\$48,219	1%
	\$4,105,571	100%



ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHT

The parcel tax provides the vast majority of the District funding for athletics, including all 88 coaches, a portion of the high school athletic directors, officials fees, and safety equipment/reconditioning.



Novato Unified School District
1015 Seventh Street
Novato, CA 94945

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Recent NUSD Recognitions:

-  Marin School of the Arts (at NHS) - **Voted Best Music School in Marin 2019**—presented by Marin IJ Readers Choice Awards
-  Kessa Early - **2019 Administrator of the Year**—presented by Association of CA School Administrators for Continuation/Education Options Region 4
-  Francine Rozoff - **Marin County Teacher of the Year 2018**—presented by the Marin County Office of Education
-  Novato High School - **Gold Ribbon School 2017**—presented by California Department of Education
-  San Marin High School - **Gold Ribbon School 2017**—presented by California Department of Education
-  Marin Oaks High School - **Model Continuation School for CA 2017, 2015 & 2012**—presented by California Department of Education
-  Hamilton Meadow Park School - **Gold Ribbon School 2016**—presented by California Department of Education