



MEMORANDUM

TO: San Mateo - Foster City School District

FROM: Lew Edwards Group
Godbe Research

RE: **Consultant Recommendations for Funding Renewal Structure**

Introduction:

We appreciate the long partnership we have enjoyed with the San Mateo-Foster City School District community. We were pleased to see the District's award-winning educational programs and services continue to enjoy strong support in both San Mateo and Foster City communities. As the recent Godbe Research survey shows, your public continues to value local schools and is supportive of considering a potential local funding renewal measure.

As we had previously reported, top priorities for your public are:

- protecting reading, writing, math and science programs;
- maintaining quality core academic programs including science, technology, engineering and math instruction;
- attracting and retaining quality teachers;
- keeping school libraries open and accessible to students; and
- supporting art, drama and music programs.

Consultant Recommendations:

The Godbe Research study shows your education funding renewal measure is potentially viable under the following circumstances:

1. We recommend continuation at the existing voter-approved rate.
2. We recommend a nine year term for this renewal, whereupon the community can reconsider an extension in the future if it chooses.
3. As to election timing, the consultants concur that a February 21st mail ballot election is optimal for the viability of your education funding renewal measure. San Mateo County is one of those unusual jurisdictions where you will receive a higher level of voter participation in an all-mail ballot election, surpassing what you would receive in a June Poll Election. Furthermore, this timing provides maximum flexibility for the District's internal budget planning.