

## SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE 2023

I would like to thank the entire community for playing a critical role in supporting our schools: our students, high-quality teachers, staff, parents, and neighborhood leaders.

I want to shine a particular light on our staff of dedicated teachers. They are at the center of what we do in Los Altos School District — our award-winning, innovative academics and our consistent ranking in the top 1% of more than 1,000 school districts across California. Each student success story, cutting-edge new elective and classroom innovation starts with a great teacher.

Yet, we live in one of the most expensive places in the country and our teachers are among the lowest paid in the area due to limited educational funding for our local schools. Helping ensure that our teachers don’t get priced out of LASD is a top priority for our District, which is why a stable source of local funding is so important for our schools.

For nearly 30 years our community helped support our high-quality teachers and award-winning schools with voter-approved, local parcel tax funding to deliver the excellent education we’ve come to expect in the Los Altos School District. This funding comprises 13% of our school district budget and is due to expire soon, unless voters approve it again.

For decades, state funding for our schools has been uncertain and unstable. Locally-based revenues from our parcel taxes allow us to attract and retain high-quality teachers, support core academic programs and expand innovative STEM programs.

Thank you for helping keep our schools among the very best! And a special thank you to our teachers for the integral role they play in making our schools among the best in the state.

**Sandra McGonagle**  
Superintendent, Los Altos School District

# PARCEL TAX FUNDING FOR TEACHERS & STUDENTS

LASD is a top-performing, innovative district with all schools earning **California Distinguished School Awards**. Parcel tax funding helps maintain outstanding core academic programs and attract and retain high quality teachers. The funds also help contribute to leading edge STEM programs and new modes of learning, which help ensure that LASD schools remain at the forefront of education in California. Parcel taxes help lower class sizes and support junior high electives by providing additional funding for teacher salaries. Funds also help keep our schools safe and clean by helping to pay for routine maintenance as well as nursing and counseling staff.

## PARCEL TAX EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS

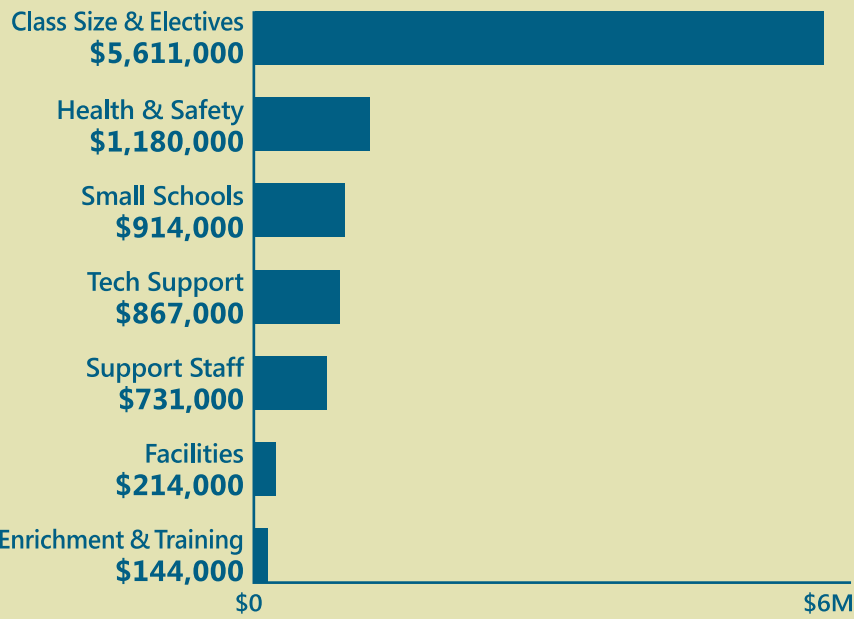
Seniors who are owner-occupants of their homes can apply for an exemption from parcel taxes.  
MORE INFO: (650) 947-1150 or [LASDSCHOOLS.ORG](https://lasdschools.org)

## PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT BY THE CACF

The Citizens’ Advisory Committee for Finance (CACF) is an independent committee of representatives from stakeholder groups including teachers, parents, taxpayers and community groups. Members are selected by the committee and confirmed by the Board of Trustees to provide oversight and accountability for parcel tax uses.

Over the years, the district has implemented policies recommended by CACF regarding staff recruiting, medical premiums, budget reserves, and other matters.

## PARCEL TAX EXPENDITURES FOR 2021-22

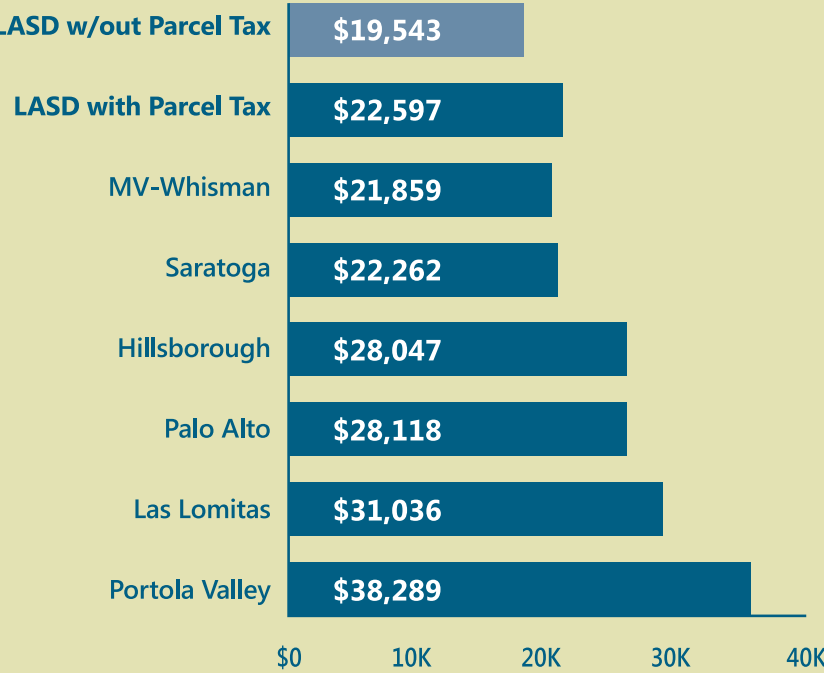


This table is a fair representation of how parcel tax proceeds were spent.

## EMERGING FROM COVID

Initial results from the Smarter Balanced Assessment System suggest that LASD adapted its instruction effectively during the pandemic. While statewide scores dropped 4 points in English and 6.5 points in math, LASD scores remained comparable to pre-pandemic levels, declining 1.5 and 0.8 respectively. The District continued to provide additional physical and mental health resources to students despite a decline in one-time state and federal COVID relief funding.

## REVENUES PER STUDENT FOR 2021-2022



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 26  
LOS ALTOS  
CARRIER ROUTE,  
PRE-SORT

**LASD**  
Los Altos School District  
201 Covington Road  
Los Altos, CA 94024

POSTAL CUSTOMER

# STRONG SCHOOLS BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

The community benefits from well-funded public schools that succeed in educating and supporting our youngest community members. Award-winning schools can also attract home buyers and increase property values for all.

LASD | 9 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS



Los Altos School District

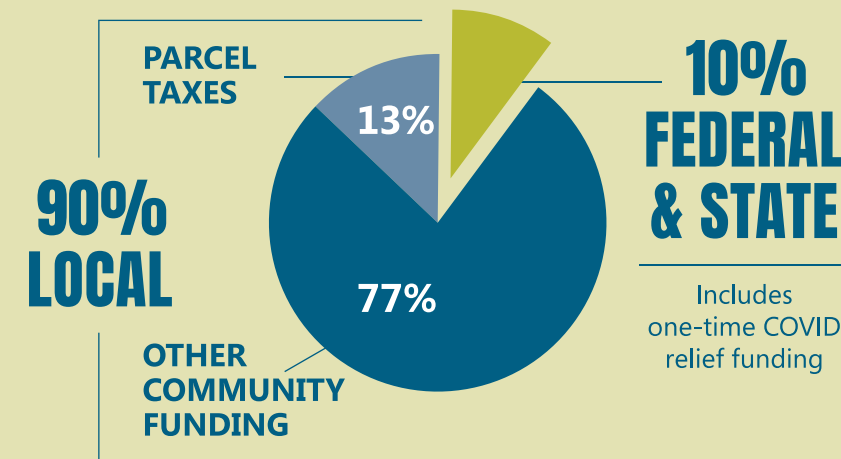
## REPORT CARD fiscal year 2021-22

Annual Accountability Report To Taxpayers

## LOCAL FUNDING IS CRITICAL FOR LASD

Los Altos School District (LASD) operating revenues mostly come from property taxes, parcel taxes, and developer fees. Parents and community donors continue to provide meaningful, additional support through each school's PTA as well as the Los Altos Educational Foundation (LAEF), which contributed nearly \$2.9M in 2021/22.

### 2021-2022 LASD FUNDING SOURCES



## POTENTIAL PARCEL TAX FUNDING GAP IN 2025

A voter-approved permanent special tax assessment of \$597 per parcel generates about \$7.5 M annually. A supplementary tax of \$223 per parcel, totaling \$2.8 M in annual funding, will expire in 2025. While expenses continue to rise, revenue from these parcel taxes is fixed and has been decreasing as a percentage of total LASD resources over time. In addition, the state has mandated programs, such as universal meals and transitional kindergarten, which require LASD general funds to operate. The district's current financial position is healthy, but the administration is planning for future uncertainties, such as slower property tax growth and rising expenses.

Failure to renew the authorization of supplementary parcel tax could create an almost \$3 million funding gap. This could result in larger class sizes, fewer electives, and reduced funding in other areas.

