

Frequently Asked Questions Los Altos School District

How are Los Altos School District schools doing?

Los Altos School District (LASD) schools are consistently ranked in the top 1% of all schools in California. All our neighborhood schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and five as National Blue Ribbon Schools. This is made possible because of our small class sizes and innovative academic programs, taught by high-quality teachers who are dedicated to the success of their students.

What challenges does LASD face in attracting and retaining high-quality teachers?

We live in one of the most expensive places in the country. Our teachers struggle to afford to live in the community they serve. LASD is committed to attracting and retaining the skilled, experienced, and dedicated teachers needed to maintain high-quality education in our schools. However, the fact remains that due to unstable and inadequate state funding, LASD teachers are among the lowest paid in Santa Clara County. Reliable, local funding helps ensure that LASD teachers don't leave for higher paying districts.

How does LASD teacher compensation compare to neighboring districts?

LASD teachers are at the core of our award-winning schools, yet due to inadequate state funding, LASD teacher salaries have fallen behind neighboring communities.

Teacher Compensation in Santa Clara County

Los Gatos ESD	\$78,909
Mountain View Whisman ESD	\$71,962
Saratoga ESD	\$70,772
Sunnyvale ESD	\$69,388
Union ESD	\$68,764
Campbell ESD	\$68,660
Cupertino ESD	\$66,910
Los Altos ESD	\$63,766
Moreland ESD	\$60,260

The amount indicated is the 2021-22 salary paid at step 1 with a requirement of bachelor's degree plus an additional 30 semester units.

How has local funding supported our schools?

For over 30 years, LASD voters have supported our neighborhood schools with locally controlled parcel tax funding, which currently accounts for 13% of the District budget. However, a portion of this funding is set to expire, meaning that LASD could face nearly \$3 million in annual cuts. To avoid these cuts, the LASD Board of Trustees has placed Measure A on the November 7, 2023 special election ballot to renew this funding.

How exactly would Measure A support LASD's teachers and academic programs?

If approved by two-thirds of local voters, Measure A could continue to be used to:

- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers
- Protect programs in reading, writing, science, technology, engineering, arts, and math
- Maintain high-quality neighborhood schools

How much would Measure A cost?

The LASD Board of Trustees has placed Measure A on the November 2023 ballot to renew the expiring \$223 per parcel per year special tax for 8 years with a \$72 increase and annual adjustments to help ensure that LASD can continue to attract and retain high-quality teachers.

How can I be sure funds from Measure A would be spent as promised?

Measure A includes strict fiscal accountability requirements, including:

- All proceeds would be controlled locally and could not be taken away by the State
- None of the money raised could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions
- Independent citizens' oversight and mandatory annual audits would ensure Measure A funds are spent as promised
- Senior citizen homeowners would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost

Has LASD been a good steward of past voter-approved funding?

Yes. The Citizens' Advisory Committee for Finance (CACF) has reviewed every penny of past parcel tax funding and consistently found that LASD has spent all funds on voter-approved projects and programs. You can read the latest CACF reports by visiting tinyurl.com/LosAltosSDCACF.

Would senior citizen homeowners be exempt from the cost of Measure A?

Yes. Senior citizens homeowners would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost of Measure A.

Would all Measure A funds benefit local public schools only?

All funds from Measure A would benefit local public schools only. No funds could be taken by the State or used for other purposes.

I don't have children attending local schools. How does this impact me?

Even if you do not have school-age children, supporting quality education can improve your property value. According to a recent Los Altos Education Foundation (LAEF) survey, 9 in 10 parents report moving to the District for the high-quality public schools. Good schools support neighborhood quality of life and protect local home values.

How can I learn more?

To learn more, please visit www.lasdschools.org/District/5415-Parcel-Tax.html.