



# LOCAL FUNDING TO KEEP LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS AT THE TOP



Los Gatos and Saratoga High Schools are known to be among the most prestigious public high schools in the state and nation. Both high schools in the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District offer a wide variety of unique and rigorous academic programs taught by award-winning teachers that prepare students for success at the top colleges and in challenging careers. In fact, parents and community members alike tell us that our local high schools set our communities apart and are a key contributor to high local property values and a strong sense of community.

## A Community Tradition of Locally Controlled Funding

More than a decade ago, local voters approved Measure A, a \$49 annual parcel tax that provides dedicated, locally controlled funding to support innovative academic programs and attract and retain qualified teachers in local high schools. Measure A has helped the District maintain a wide array of academic offerings, including robotics, rigorous AP courses and award-winning music, arts and world language programs. This source of funding is set to expire unless renewed.

## Teacher Compensation and Local Funding Have Not Kept Pace

While the cost of living and of providing an excellent education has continued to increase, locally controlled revenue for our high schools has remained stagnant, meaning that LGSUHSD teacher compensation has not kept pace with similar districts

Los Gatos and Saratoga are among the most expensive communities in the country, and local teachers cannot afford to live here. Due to inadequate state funding and stagnant local revenue, LGSUHSD teacher compensation has not kept pace with similar districts. As a result, our District has been losing top teacher talent to neighboring districts and more affordable communities.

## Teacher Compensation in Santa Clara County






MOUNTAIN VIEW LOS ALTOS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$127,083
SANTA CLARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$106,985
FREMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$100,266
PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$98,001
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$95,774



The amount indicated is the 2023-24 salary paid at a step 5 with a requirement of a Bachelor's degree plus an additional 45 semester units.  
\*Fremont Union High School District's data is based off of 2022-23 data.

# POTENTIAL FUNDING MEASURE TO KEEP TOP TEACHER TALENT & PROTECT AWARD-WINNING ACADEMICS

The LGSUHS Board of Trustees is currently exploring options to help local funding keep pace with the rising costs of providing a quality education. One option currently being explored is a ballot measure to renew the District's expiring local parcel tax, with a modest increase to the \$49 rate first approved more than 10 years ago. Funding from a renewal measure could continue to be used to support key District initiatives, including:

-  Attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers and school staff
-  Maintaining strong core academic programs and high-quality science, math, technology, robotics, engineering and AP courses
-  Providing programs that prepare students for college and future careers
-  Supporting high student achievement
-  Ensuring teacher salaries are competitive with surrounding districts



## ***Local Control & Fiscal Accountability Provisions Are Required in Local Funding Measures***

Any renewal measure would include the same fiscal accountability provisions already in place with the current Measure A:

- ✓ 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 funds are spent as promised
- ✓ Senior citizen homeowners would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost

## **Community Input Is a Critical Component of Our Planning Process**

Planning for the future of education funding in our local high schools should be a community driven process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tanya De La Cruz at [tdelacruz@lgsuhd.org](mailto:tdelacruz@lgsuhd.org) or (408) 354-2520. We also encourage you to visit our website at <https://www.lgsuhd.org/about-us/local-funding> to take our community priorities survey and make your voice heard.