

Make Your Voice Heard As LGSUHSD Plans for the Long-Term Future of Local School Funding



# THE FORMULA FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

  
**Los Gatos-Saratoga**  
UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
17421 Farley Road West  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

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## LGSUHSD Teachers Among the Lowest Paid in Area

Los Gatos-Saratoga teachers are at the core of our award-winning schools, yet due to inadequate state funding and stagnant local revenue, LGSUHSD teachers' salaries have fallen behind neighboring communities. Read inside for more information on the steps Los Gatos-Saratoga is taking to ensure we can attract and retain the best teachers. And be sure to provide your input as we consider all options for locally controlled funding.

### Teacher Compensation in Santa Clara County

MOUNTAIN VIEW LOS ALTOS UNION HIGH SD	\$127,083
SANTA CLARA UNIFIED SD	\$106,985
FREMONT UNION HIGH SD	\$100,266
PALO ALTO UNIFIED SD	\$98,001
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA UNION HIGH SD	\$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 District's data is based off of 2022-23 data.*

 [www.lgsuhd.org/](http://www.lgsuhd.org/)  [/LGSHSdistrict/](https://www.facebook.com/LGSHSdistrict/)  [@LGSUHSD](https://www.instagram.com/LGSUHSD)

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Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District  
17421 Farley Road West  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

FIRST CLASS  
STAMP  
REQUIRED



Please complete the survey  
on the other side of this card  
to let LGSUHSD know your  
priorities for local schools.



# GET TO KNOW THE LGSUHSD BUDGET & HISTORY OF LOCAL FUNDING FOR AWARD-WINNING TEACHERS & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

Dear Neighbor,

It is truly an honor to serve as your Superintendent here in Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District. We are proud to offer unique and rigorous academic programs taught by award-winning teachers and to watch our students succeed at top colleges and in challenging careers once they’ve left our halls.

Our two high schools — Los Gatos High and Saratoga High — are known to be among the most prestigious public high schools in the state and nation. We hear almost daily that our local high schools are the reason that parents and community members chose to live here, keeping property values high and our sense of community strong.



## Teachers Are Struggling to Afford Our Communities

What you may not know is that, in recent years, our high schools have been losing top teacher talent to neighboring districts and more affordable communities. Due to inadequate state funding and stagnant local revenue, LGSUHSD teacher compensation has not kept pace with similar districts. Given that Los Gatos and Saratoga are among the most expensive communities in the country, teachers struggle to live here.

## Exploring Locally Controlled Funding Solutions to Keep Top Teacher Talent

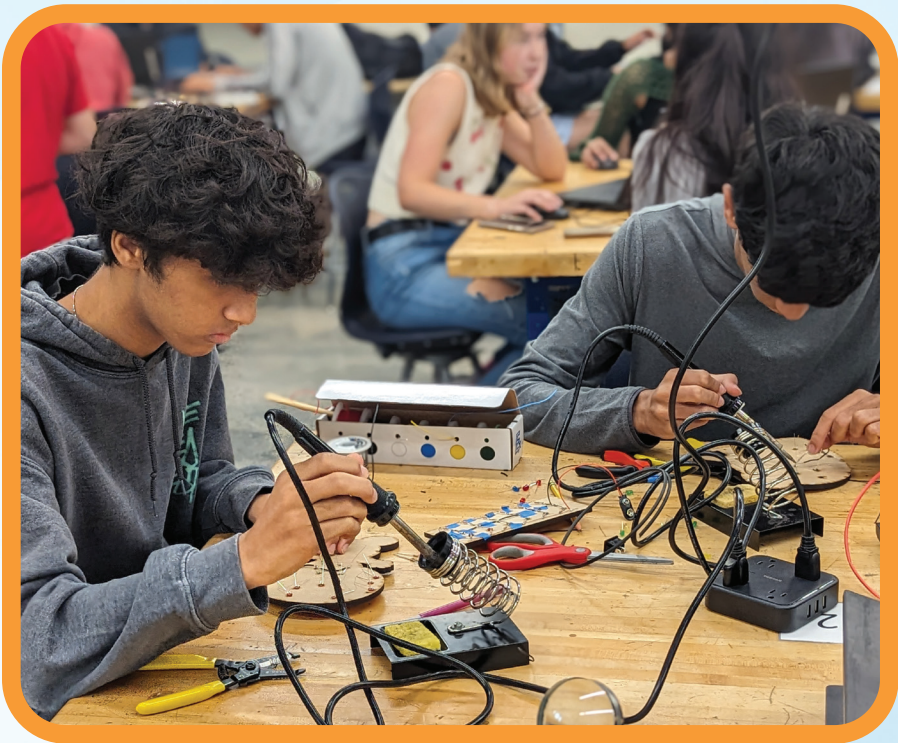
The District is actively exploring options to keep qualified teachers in our high schools and maintain the level of academic excellence our community has come to expect. For more than a decade, our schools have relied on Measure A, a \$49 annual parcel tax that provides dedicated, locally controlled funding to attract and retain qualified teachers and maintain a wide array of academic offerings, including robotics, rigorous AP courses and award-winning music, arts and world language programs.

Since Measure A was first approved in 2011, the cost of living and of providing an excellent education has continued to increase, yet Measure A’s \$49 rate has never been increased. With Measure A set to expire soon, we are beginning to plan for the future and we would love to hear from you. I encourage you to fill out the survey below to make your voice heard.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our local high schools among the best in the state and nation.

Sincerely,

Bill W. Sanderson  
Superintendent  
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District



## The Role Local Funding Plays in Keeping Top Teachers & Protecting Excellent Academics

As the LGSUHSD Board of Trustees begins considering a potential ballot measure to renew the District’s expiring local parcel tax, it might be helpful to understand how specifically local funds could be spent in local high schools. With a modest increase to the \$49 rate first approved more than 10 years ago, funding from a renewal measure could continue 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

- ✓ All proceeds are controlled locally and cannot be taken away by the State
- ✓ No money can be used for administrators’ salaries or pensions
- ✓ Independent citizens’ oversight and mandatory annual audits are required
- ✓ Senior citizen homeowners are eligible for an exemption from the cost

**We Want to Hear from You!**  
Please complete the attached survey card and mail it back to let us know your priorities for our high schools. You may also take the survey online by scanning the QR code.



## Please Rate the Importance of the Following Priorities for Our High Schools:

	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers & school staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining strong core academic programs and high-quality science, math, technology, robotics, engineering and AP courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing programs that prepare students for college and future careers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting high student achievement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensuring teacher salaries are competitive with surrounding districts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raising pay for teachers in shortage areas such as special education, math and science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining music and art programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you currently have children attending LGSUHSD schools? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The funding local high schools have is:  
☐ Too Little ☐ The Right Amount ☐ Too Much

What is most important to you as we consider renewing this expiring source of funding?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Comments/Questions: \_\_\_\_\_  
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