MPCSD Budget 101:
Funding our Priorities

MENLO PARK
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MPCSD's Vision

Educating and empowering students while embracing childhood and adolescence.








MPCSD's Strategic Directions

1

Grow Student Belonging

2

Strengthen Academic Excellence

3

Create Inspiring Environments








This Presentation Will

- Share a brief history of California's School Funding System
- Explain MPCSD's "Community Funded" status
- Highlight the importance of Teacher Investment
- Examine the OCC's Importance and Programmatic Impact
- Review MPCSD's upcoming Fiscal Sustainability Exercise
- Identify Opportunities for Community Input








How California Funds Schools

- **Prop 13 (1978) capped property taxes,** limited how much they can be increased each year, and when properties can be reassessed. School funding dramatically changed after that.
- **Menlo Park Atherton Education Foundation (1982)** formed by a group of parents in response to funding challenges in the wake of Prop 13. Its goal was and remains to raise funds for MPCSD schools. Now, the MPAEF raises most of its annual grant via the One Community Campaign.
- **Prop 98 (1988) established a minimum funding requirement for schools and community colleges commonly known as the minimum guarantee.**
- **The Local Control Funding Formula, or LCFF, (2013)** provides per student funding plus additional funding based on numbers of high-need students (low-income, English Learner, and/or foster youth).
- **The LCFF created a formula** to categorize districts as LCFF (state funded) or Basic Aid (community funded)

Sources: Legislative Analyst's Office, Education Data Initiative, Public Policy Institute of California








MPCSD is Community Funded

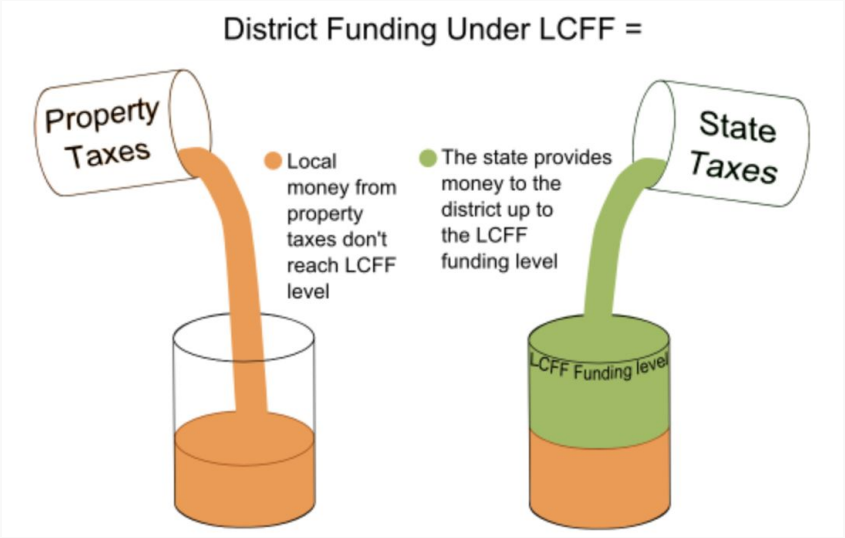
- **MPCSD's property tax revenue gives us more than the California minimum guarantee** + LCFF per student.
- We don't get a lot of state revenue, but we do get to keep the designated property taxes.
- **Revenue is NOT tied to enrollment** - we get the same property tax revenue no matter how many students enroll.
- It is *not a district's choice* whether to be community funded or LCFF(state) funded. It is determined by the numbers.

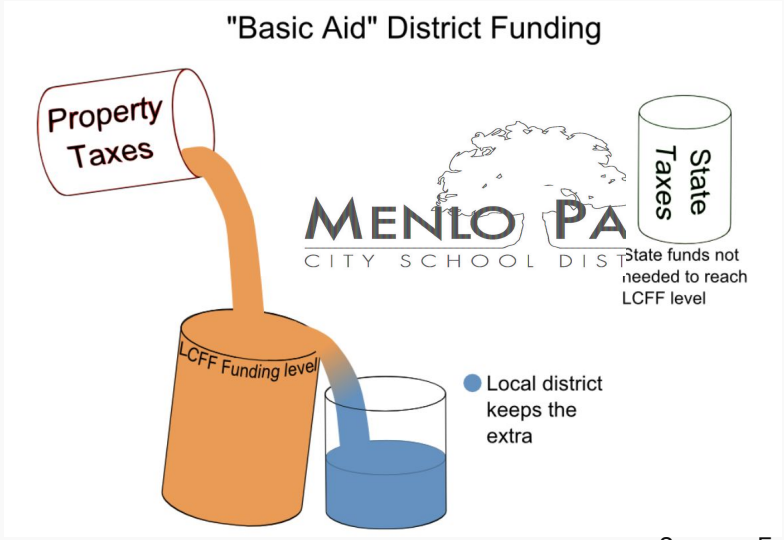







State (LCFF) vs. Community (Basic Aid) Funded





Source: Ed100.org





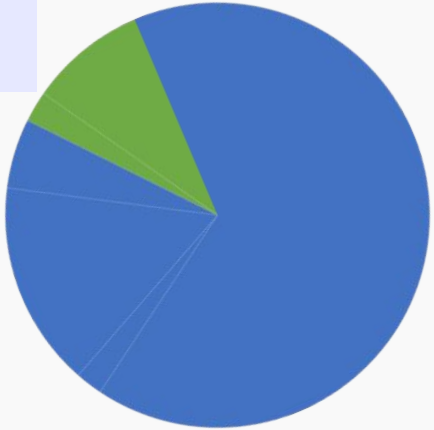



2025-26 Adopted Budget Revenues

General Fund Revenues for 2025-26: $77,295,958

Non-local/state/fed revenue *(11.27%)*

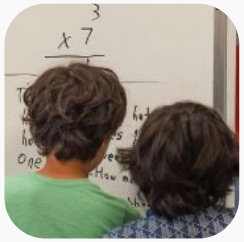
Local revenue *(88.72%)*



Revenue Funding Sources 2025-26 Budget Adoption - Revenues		
Property taxes	48,490,755	65.72%
LCFF State Funding	516,090	
LCFF Deferred Maintenance Transfer	(620,818)	
Property Tax Transfer (SELPA)	2,412,757	
Local Funds	1,592,272	2.06%
Parcel Tax	12,092,675	15.64%
MPAEF (primarily funded via OCC)	4,100,000	5.30%
State Aid - Minimum State Aid & Tinsley	1,820,169	2.35%
State & Fed	6,892,058	8.92%
	77,295,958	100%








The Community Supports Education









One Community Campaign (MPAEF Annual Grant) = 5.3%

Parcel Taxes + Other Local Funding = 17.7%

Property Taxes = 65.72%

These three funding streams make up **nearly 89%** of the district's total revenue. Our community makes the choice to support our schools beyond our property taxes with parcel taxes and the OCC.

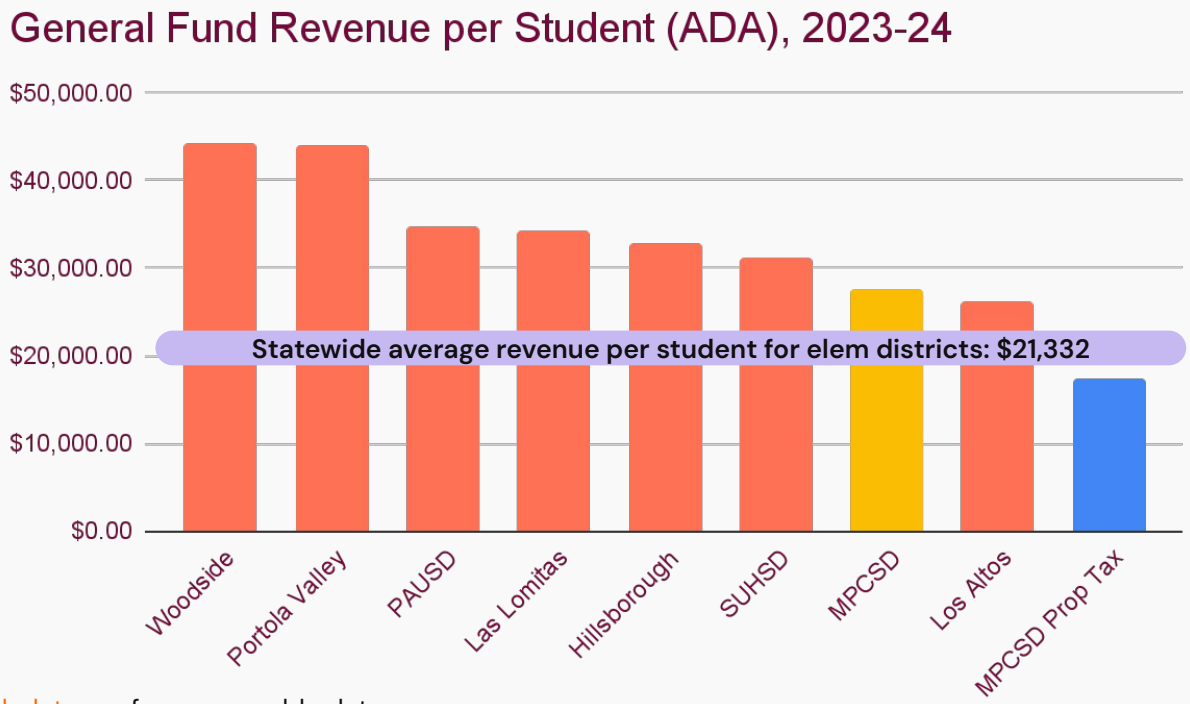
Donating to the OCC makes a meaningful difference!

Property Taxes: “Why aren’t they enough?”

MPCSD could choose to just use its property taxes, but that would mean cutting 35% of its programs and putting us even more out of line with local peer districts. Property taxes fund just 65.72% of our budget.







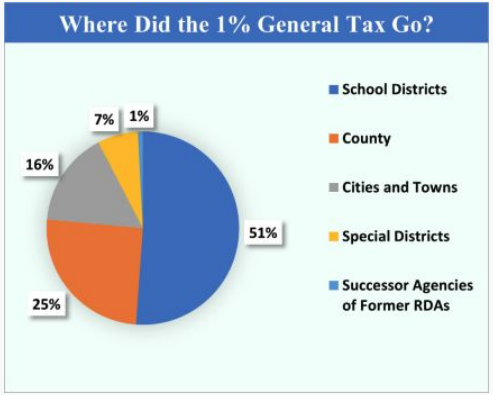




Source: ed-data.org for comparable data

Property Taxes: "Why aren't they enough?"

Property taxes paid by property owners are collected by San Mateo County Tax Collector, and then distributed by the Controller among many entities. Amounts collected and dispersed are governed by state laws. For detailed reading, download the "Property Tax Highlights" document at www.smcgov.org/controller.

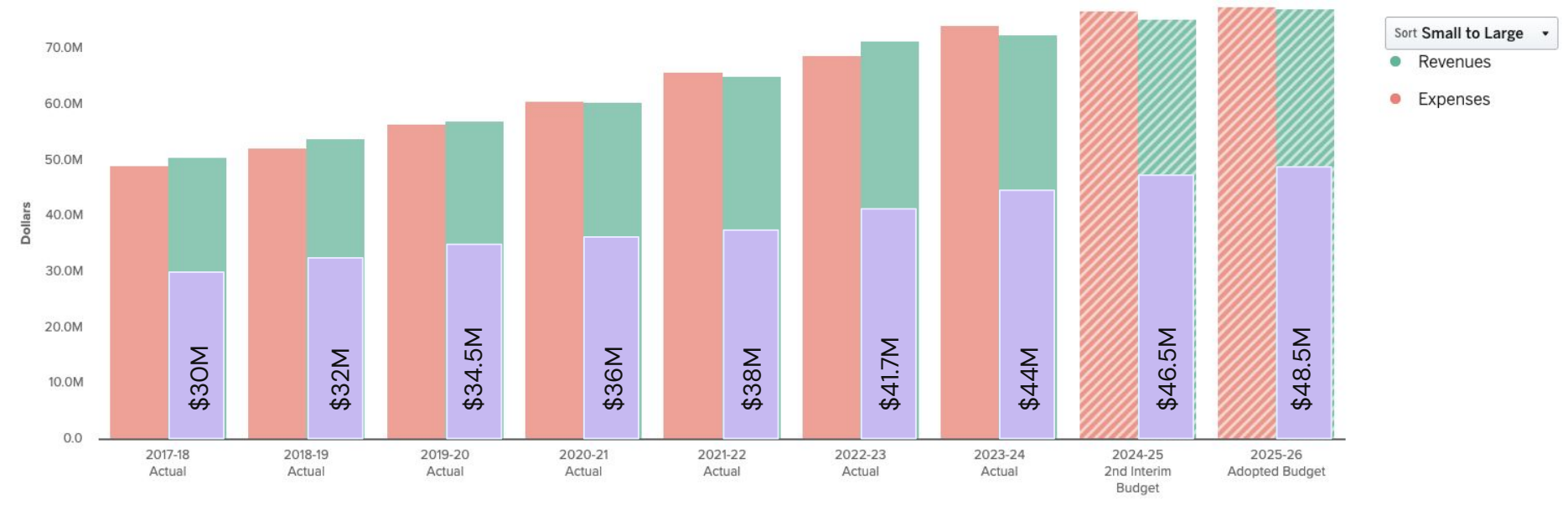


- There are 25 school districts in SMC.
- **For 2023-24 MPCSD received about 17% of secured property tax collected just from within MPCSD.**
- *Note: Parcel Taxes are separate and we receive 100% of parcel taxes levied by MPCSD.*

Taxing Agency	Current Year Taxes	Vehicle License Fee Swap and LCFF Funded School[1] Deficits	Excess ERAF	Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund Distributions	Total Taxes	Percent to Total
School Districts						
Bayshore Elementary	$ 1,629,693	$ (3,639,528)	$ -	$ 2,378,534	$ 368,700	0.01%
Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary	43,470,515	-	-	290,970	43,761,485	1.36%
Brisbane Elementary	8,529,911	-	-	2,240,240	10,770,150	0.33%
Burlingame Elementary	34,575,148	-	-	-	34,575,148	1.08%
Hillsborough Elementary	26,426,376	-	-	-	26,426,376	0.82%
Jefferson Elementary	46,708,902	(48,030,849)	-	1,321,946	-	0.00%
Pacifica	25,537,589	(25,620,812)	-	101,221	17,998	0.00%
Las Lomitas Elementary	26,940,487	-	-	-	26,940,487	0.84%
Menlo Park Elementary	43,655,117	-	-	582,243	44,237,361	1.38%
Millbrae Elementary	19,156,474	(21,083,577)	-	2,291,859	364,757	0.01%
Portola Valley Elementary	15,261,255	-	-	-	15,261,255	0.47%
Ravenswood Elementary	20,561,631	-	-	10,324,963	30,886,593	0.96%
Redwood City Elementary	79,020,750	-	-	11,755,461	90,776,211	2.82%
San Bruno Elementary	23,862,486	-	-	4,795,208	28,657,694	0.89%
San Carlos Elementary	28,560,950	(30,460,635)	-	3,013,230	1,113,545	0.03%
San Mateo-Foster City Elementary	123,518,243	-	-	3,810,715	127,328,958	3.96%
Woodside Elementary	10,101,026	-	-	-	10,101,026	0.31%
Jefferson High	55,698,254	-	-	6,032,300	61,730,554	1.92%
San Mateo High	185,302,347	-	-	15,318,820	200,621,167	6.24%
Sequoia High	189,683,803	-	-	16,141,624	205,825,427	6.40%
Cabrillo Unified	34,705,841	-	-	-	34,705,841	1.08%
La Honda-Pescadero	5,121,049	-	-	-	5,121,049	0.16%
South San Francisco Unified	93,960,847	-	-	42,876,649	136,837,496	4.25%
San Mateo Community College	197,519,595	-	-	21,181,261	218,700,856	6.80%
County Office of Education	102,792,379	-	19,359,563	14,147,235	136,299,178	4.24%
ERAF	381,926,872	(24,873,728)	(357,053,144)	-	-	0.00%
Total School Districts	**$ 1,824,227,541**	**$ (153,709,129)**	**$ (337,693,581)**	**$ 158,604,480**	**$ 1,491,429,311**	**46.37%**

Property Taxes: “Why aren’t they enough?”

You can find detailed financial information at the district’s Business Services Portal:
https://district.mpcsd.org/departments/business-officefinance/business-services-portal



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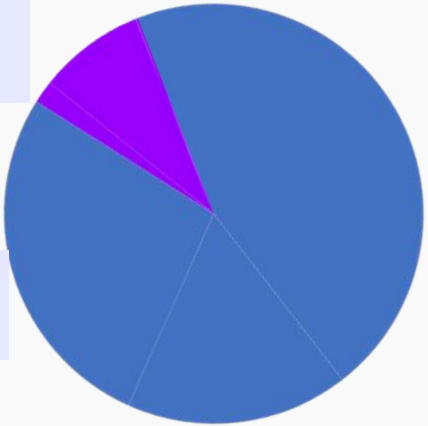
Donating to the OCC makes a meaningful difference!

2025-26 Adopted Budget Expenditures

General Fund Expenditures for 2025-26: $77,540,627

Expenditures not on staffing *(10.14%)*

Expenditures on staffing *(89.86%)*



General Fund Expenditures 2025-26 Budget Adoption - Expenditures		
Certificated Salaries	35,206,639	45.40%
Classified Salaries	13,320,448	17.18%
Employee Benefits	21,151,856	27.28%
Books and Supplies	1,363,141	1.76%
Services and Operating Exp	6,369,583	8.21%
Capital Outlay/ Outgo	128,960	0.17%
	77,540,627	100%








Why invest in teachers?

The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers.

-Barber and Mourshed, 2007



Investing in teacher/staff compensation keeps top talent here in MPCSD:

- MPCSD had its highest teacher retention rate last year, at 95%
- MPCSD ranks in top three of local/peer districts in most areas of teacher compensation

The One Community Campaign Impact

Your OCC Donation
(Suggested donation $2,000/student)

First $250/student of donation

Remainder of donation

SCHOOL PTO: Enrichment & Events

I. **Classroom Supplies**
plus specific grants for teachers

II. **Campus Enrichment**
Cultural & STEM Offerings, Safe Routes to School, Assemblies, Musicals, Book Fairs and Author Visits, Garden Programs

III. **Community Building Events**
Family Picnics, Bingo/Movie/ Science/Math Nights, Community Coffees, Parent Education Speakers

ENCINAL SCHOOL

LAUREL SCHOOL

OAK KNOLL SCHOOL OTTERS

HILLVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

MENLO PARK-ATHERTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MPAEF → SCHOOL DISTRICT: 3 Pillars of Staff

I. **Specialist & Elective Teachers:**
Art, Music, Library, PE, World Language, Coding, Woodshop, Photography

II. **Mental & Physical Health:**
Nurses, Counselors, and Psychologists

III. **Academic Support:**
Instructional Coaches, Learning Specialists, and Aides

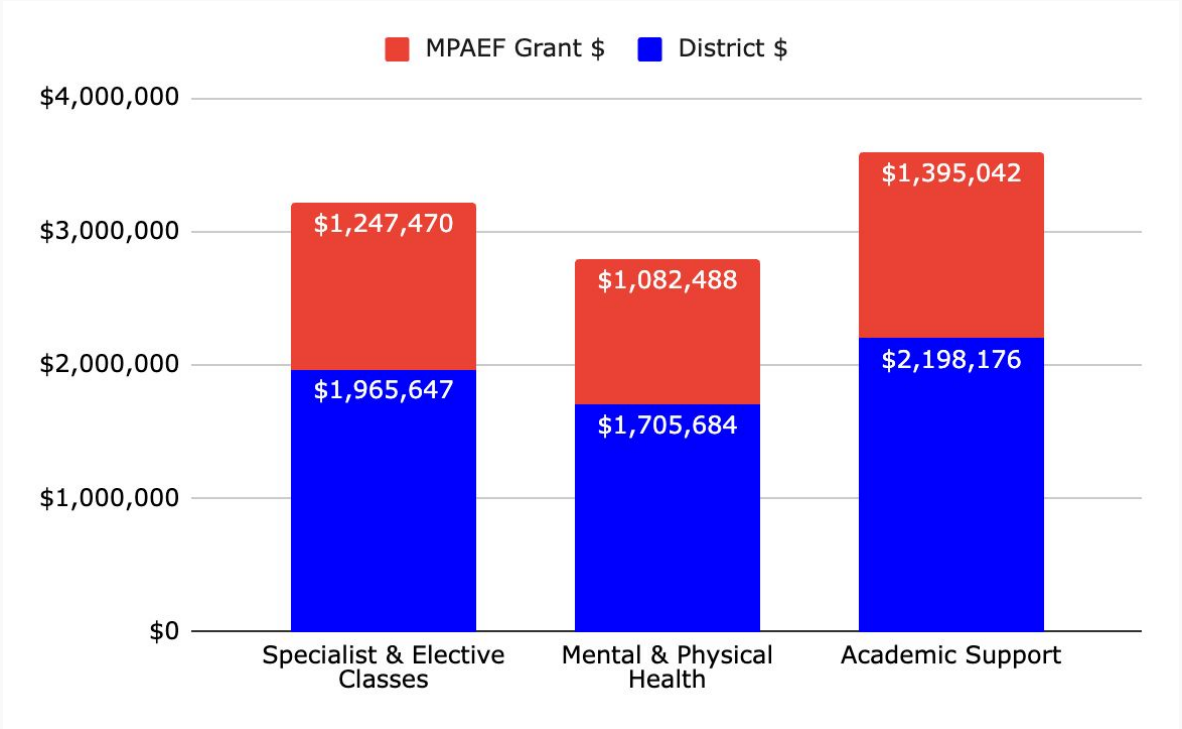
The OCC helps all MPCSD students learn & thrive! Learn more and donate at supportmpcsd.org.

The One Community Campaign Impact









By strategically using the MPAEF grant to fund these programs, the OCC makes an outsized impact.

MENLO PARK-ATHERTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MPCSD Funding Our Priorities:

Financial Exercise for Fiscal Sustainability

Goal:

Create a balanced budget that reflects our MPCSD vision and priorities.



MPCSD Funding Our Priorities: Financial Exercise for Fiscal Sustainability

Desired Outcomes:

- Align budget to vision and priorities.
- Implement best practices to address district goals.
- Identify community priorities.
- Anticipate increased expenditures related to *Personnel, Operations, Capital Outlay*, and *Services*, taking into account cost-of-living adjustments.
- Facilitate three or more years of balanced budgets.
- Maintain competitive compensation.
- Maintain healthy reserve for economic uncertainties.



You can be involved!

3 Phase Process

Phase I:
Information & Input

Budget 101 Information Sessions for the Community:

- September 18, 2025 7-8pm Zoom
- September 24, 2025 9-10am TERC

Community Survey - October, 2025

Staff Survey - October, 2025

Leadership Team Input

Phase II:
Analysis

Leadership Team Research

Internal analysis of survey data

Union engagement

Board Study Session: *review of research & data*

- November 6, 2025

Phase III:
Identify & Recommend

Identify budget revisions

Leadership & Union engagement

Seek feedback from Board & Community (regular board meetings)

- December 18, 2025
- January 15, 2026
- February 12, 2026 (if needed)

Review & seek approval of newly revised adopted budget

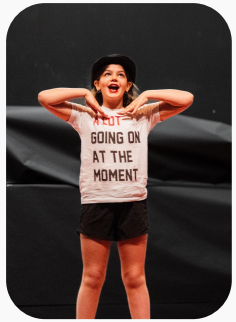
- *June 4, 2026 & June 11, 2026*

Takeaways from Budget 101





- California school funding is complicated! There are two ways districts are funded: primarily by the state or primarily from local dollars. MPCSD is the latter - Community Funded.
- MPCSD only gets two thirds of its budget from local property taxes. The community augments that funding with parcel taxes and philanthropic giving help the district deliver the education the community expects.
- 90% of MPCSD's expenses are on staffing.
- The One Community Campaign makes a huge impact by strategically investing dollars in three pillars of staff: Specialist & Elective Teachers, Mental & Physical Health staff, and Academic Support staff.
- This year's process for Fiscal Sustainability invites your participation! Read your newsletters for info on for surveys and meetings.
- Our goal is to adopt a balanced and sustainable budget, aligned to our vision and priorities for next school year and beyond.





Thank You and Questions

