



**State of the Schools  
Tina Fredericks  
President, Board of Education  
Pasadena Unified School District**

**April 22, 2026**

Good evening, everyone - to those who are joining us here at the esteemed Mary Jackson STEAM Multilingual Elementary Magnet in our beloved Altadena, and good evening to those who are joining us from home.

I want to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have dedicated yourself to supporting Pasadena Unified School District. Your time and contributions are invaluable and are deeply appreciated.

I'm Tina Fredericks, Board President of Pasadena Unified School District. My pronouns are she/her/hers

This has been a highly unique and eventful year, to say the least. Understanding the current state of the schools warrants recognizing how the school year began.

Monday morning, August 18, 2025, I got ready for the day, drove to one of our elementary schools in Northwest Pasadena, before the parents walked their kids to school. I met up with community volunteers. We took up our designated positions around the school to watch for ICE.

This was the first day of school.

Since then, nutritional programs and healthcare funding have been cut, there are ongoing and new wars, economic turmoil, protests here and abroad, family, friends, neighbors targeted and deported without due process

We say at PUSD: every child is our child. The Pasadena Unified School District, encompassing Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre, is a special community that deeply cares about each other. Crisis after crisis. First, the COVID pandemic, then the Eaton fire, and this year, the ICE agents. Our district continues to address these challenges head on with compassion and creativity. I'm proud to report our students are safe, secure, receiving a quality education, and are stronger human beings due to what they endured.

Our district is very grateful for the voters of Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre who have supported critical bond and parcel tax measures that have provided stable funding for our schools.

This work must be backed by strong financial planning.

The District's combined General Fund revenues come from the State, the Federal Government, and local sources. The State provides these funds through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which has two main sources of revenue: property taxes and State Aid.

As of the Second Interim Report, the total LCFF entitlement for the 2025-26 fiscal year was approximately \$190,714,720 dollars. These funds come to the District in two forms: base grants, used for general operations, and supplemental and concentration grants, which are targeted for specific student populations such as Foster Youth, English Learners, and students qualifying for low socio-economic status. These supplemental and concentration grant funds must be used to supplement the general education program and ensure that all students have the resources they need to succeed.

Like many California school districts, we face serious fiscal challenges, and we had to make tough choices to identify \$30 million in reductions and savings for the 2026-27 school year, including central office reductions and staffing adjustments. These were difficult decisions. But they were necessary to preserve classroom instruction, maintain reserves, and continue essential programs in literacy, math, wellness, and college and career readiness.

Earlier this month, the Los Angeles County Office of Education issued a positive certification of our second interim financial report. Their recommendations affirm the path we're on for sustained financial stability. But we have to act cautiously to maintain our fiscal stability even as our district's enrollment continues to decline each year, and costs continue to rise.

One of the recommendations from the Los Angeles County Office of Education in order to bring long-term financial stability to the district was to "do things differently". The Board took that seriously and directed the Superintendent to hire an independent external consultant to look at potential school consolidation that would expand educational opportunities to all students and reduce long-term facilities costs by having to maintain fewer schools.

The district has gone through school consolidation multiple times. But it's always difficult and it's extremely emotional. I ask all of us to treat each other with sensitivity and care throughout this process.

Each of our schools have their own individual closely-knit community. However, no school is an island - the destiny of all of our schools and all of our students are bound together by our shared budget.

Thanks to the passage of Measure J and Measure EE, we've continued to reduce our deficit and protect vital student programs. We're committed to making every dollar count.

As we move forward, we will engage our community to help guide our decisions. Our community has shown up for our schools time and time again.

The passage of Measure R in 2024, which secured \$900 million dollars in local funds for school upgrades, was a clear statement. Our students deserve safe, modern, innovative learning environments. And we will deliver.

What is specifically unique about the Measure R bond is its intent to fund renewable and clean energy infrastructure and accessible green learning environments. Thanks to the voters who supported Measure R, the district can build towards a sustainable future. Our district is actively working side by side with Pasadena Water & Power to identify school sites that are ideal to install solar panels.

The City of Pasadena has committed to reaching its goal of 100% carbon free energy by the end of 2030 and our district is supporting that effort. Generating and storing our own solar powered electricity translates into potentially millions of dollars in annual savings for the district into its general fund. Solar canopies are planned for three school sites to be completed by the summer of 2028. This is a clear example of one-time bond dollars that are strategically invested in our schools that translate to ongoing annual savings. This would not be possible without the support of our community.

To further illustrate what it means to the district to have stable funding sources of our local bonds, I would like to invite up to the stage Journey Everly, a 7th grader from Eliot Arts Middle School and former Jackson elementary student. When the Eaton fire destroyed Eliot Arts Middle School, the students were moved to McKinley School.

The McKinley community, its students and staff, welcomed and embraced the Eliot community - made space and shared space with them. Again, thanks to the bond dollars, the district was able to turn a baseball field into an entire set of new classrooms, administration buildings and a dedicated secure entrance just for the Eliot Arts community at McKinley School. Our district facilities leadership understood that the Eliot Arts community needed not just space but a space they can call their own.

Now, I would like to introduce a seventh grade student from Eliot Arts Magnet, who I heard speak at an event last week. Please welcome Journee Everly.

### **[Student Remarks]**

Thank you, Journee, for telling your story. This goes to show that no matter what happens, not even the second most destructive fire in California, can destroy the heart and soul of PUSD. We take care of each other. It's just what we do.

I'm going to be honest, this year has been really difficult with what is happening in our community and around the world. But there is a lot of good happening here at PUSD. There are so many people doing good - students, parents, teachers, staff, community members, educational partners, administrators. It truly takes a village. This year we are laying the foundation to fundamentally transform our district. We're not just rebuilding, we're dreaming big.

And with the support of the community, the future looks bright.

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