

AUHSD and Public School Funding Explained

WHY AUHSD'S FUNDING FALLS SHORT

It's not a spending problem, it's a revenue problem.

California funds schools through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF): a base grant for every student, plus supplemental & concentration grants for districts for low-income students, English learners, and foster youth.

$$\text{BASE GRANT} + \text{SUPPLEMENTAL \& CONCENTRATION} = \text{TOTAL LCFF FUNDING}$$

AUHSD serves fewer students who qualify for supplemental dollars, so the district runs almost entirely on the base grant alone, with little on top. This is why AUHSD receives the lowest per student State allocation of all high school districts in California.

The base has never covered what it actually costs to run a school in one of the most expensive regions in the country.

The challenges are intensified with the rising costs of school operations.

SALARIES

Recruiting and keeping qualified teachers and staff in a high-cost labor market.

HEALTH BENEFITS

The rising costs of health benefits are a significant challenge as we strive to provide the support our dedicated employees deserve.

PENSIONS

State-mandated retirement contribution rates that districts don't control but must pay.

FACILITIES

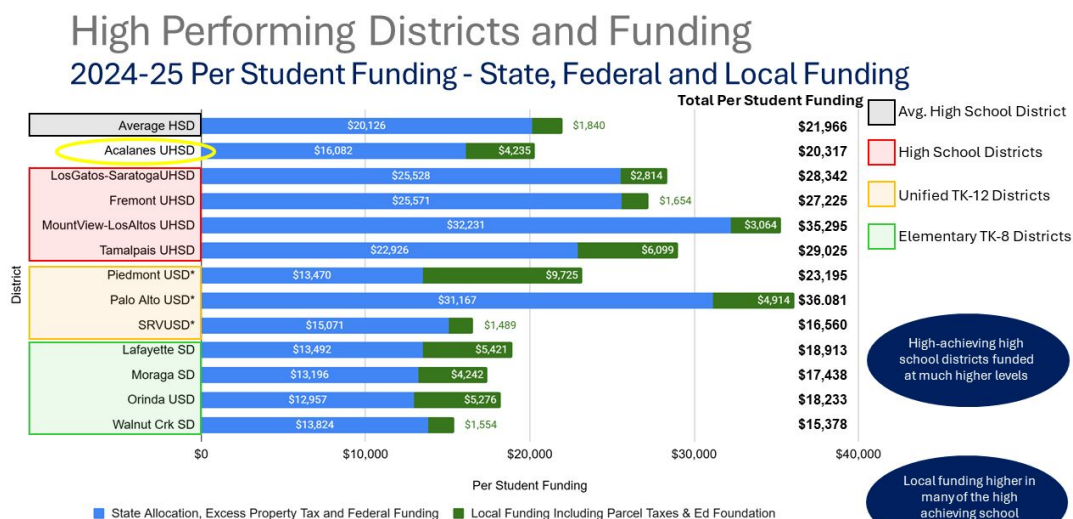
Maintaining and modernizing aging campuses on a base grant that assumes none of this.

RISING UTILITY COSTS

Electricity, gas, and water costs that continue to climb across California.

It's all about THE BASE.

AUHSD IS THE LOWEST STATE FUNDED HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE STATE



Even adding state, federal, and local dollars together, AUHSD's total per-student funding trails nearly every high-achieving district in the comparison, **and many of those districts also draw significantly more from local funding sources.**

Top Performing Despite Lowest Funding

HOW AUHSD COMPARES TO SIMILAR-SIZED DISTRICTS

Looking only at high school districts with 4,000–6,000 students statewide, AUHSD's closest peer group by size.



Ranking High School Districts with Enrollment Between 4,000 and 6,000

The Acalanes Union High School District receives the lowest funding among high school districts of a similar size, and even with local support, it is still the lowest-funded. But students at AUHSD high schools consistently perform among the top of these districts. This excellence should not be taken for granted. The investment from our local community has made it possible for our schools to excel, but in recent years, our local support has not kept up with rising expenses, threatening the experience of our students.



Student/Teacher Ratio

Mountain View (18.2)
Tamalpais (18.4)
AUHSD (19.2)
Jefferson (19.4)
Central (20.1)
Tulare (20.7)
Shasta (20.9)
Hanford (22.7)

Number of students per teacher.



Math State Testing

Mountain View (67.5)
AUHSD (65.5)
Tamalpais (54.2)
Shasta (41.7)
Jefferson (32.7)
Tulare (22.5)
Hanford (18.2)
Central (18.0)

Percent of students meeting or exceeding standard.



English Language Arts State Testing

AUHSD (81.0)
Mountain View (78.6)
Tamalpais (68.7)
Shasta (58.5)
Jefferson (57.4)
Hanford (54.5)
Tulare (54.1)
Central (48.9)

Percent of students meeting or exceeding standard.



State and Federal Funding

Mountain View (\$32,232)
Tamalpais (\$22,926)
Jefferson (\$22,253)
Tulare (\$20,471)
Central (\$19,612)
Hanford (\$19,490)
Shasta (\$17,898)
AUHSD (\$16,082)

All funding from the state and federal government.



Local Support

Tamalpais (\$6,099)
AUHSD (\$4,235)
Mountain View (\$3,064)
Jefferson (\$2,987)
Shasta (\$2,618)
Tulare (\$1,941)
Hanford (\$1,404)
Central (\$1,364)

Funding from local parcel taxes and donations to education foundations.

Source: Ed-data.org 2024-2025
Prepared by the Moraga Education Foundation

Among these peer districts, AUHSD receives the least state and federal funding per student, and even with local support factored in, it remains the lowest-funded of the group. Yet AUHSD students rank first in English Language Arts and near the top in Math testing.

AMONG SIMILAR-SIZED DISTRICTS, AUHSD RANKS LAST FOR STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING, BUT AT OR NEAR THE TOP ACADEMICALLY.

That's not a failure of our community. It's a gap in the formula, and AUHSD's results happen despite it, not because of it.

LOOKING AHEAD

The long-term fix is state LCFF reform: as California's guaranteed school funding grows, **raising the base grant every student receives** would help AUHSD. In addition to critical local support, Raisethebase.org is important work. We're glad to join in the efforts, but the immediate story is simple: **AUHSD's needs have grown and its funding hasn't kept up.**

We need local support to preserve our excellent opportunities for all our students. They deserve the chance to shine their brightest.

