

Maintaining Local Funding for Education in Palo Alto Unified Schools

Dear Neighbor,

Palo Alto Unified School District strives to provide a world-class education for local students, and the District's local schools consistently rank among the best in the State and the nation. Exceptional teachers, innovative programs, dedicated parents and strong community support all contribute to high levels of student achievement.

✓ **Locally Controlled Funding Set to Expire** *Vote Pitch state more*
 ✓ Since 2001, Palo Alto schools have received proceeds from a voter-approved parcel tax that now provides nearly \$17 million per year in locally controlled funding that cannot be taken by the State. However, this funding is set to expire in 2027 unless renewed.



Exploring Options to Maintain Dedicated School Funding

To preserve dedicated school funding and prevent cuts to teaching positions and academic programming, Palo Alto Unified School District is exploring placing an education parcel tax renewal measure on the June 2026 ballot. If approved, this renewal measure would extend current parcel tax funding at current tax rates.

The District looks forward to working with its community and values your input as it plans for the future of quality education in Palo Alto schools. Please complete and return the attached survey or visit tinyurl.com/PAUSD-Survey to share your priorities for Palo Alto Unified School District.

Sincerely,

Don Austin
 Superintendent, Palo Alto Unified School District

Continuing School Funding at Current Rates *More parcel tax pitch*

To maintain local school funding and prevent cuts to teachers and academic programming, the Palo Alto Unified School District is considering placing a parcel tax renewal measure on the June 2026 ballot to renew funding at the current rate.

If approved by voters, funds from a renewal measure could be used to:



Attract and retain highly qualified teachers



Continue advanced programs in science, technology, engineering and math



Prepare students for college and in-demand careers



Maintain reading, writing and language programs



Maintain manageable class sizes



Keep instructional materials up-to-date

Mandatory Fiscal Accountability and Local Control

If approved by voters, the proposed renewal measure would be subject to fiscal oversight:



All money would be controlled locally and could not be taken away by the State or federal governments



Independent citizens' oversight and mandatory annual audits



Homeowners aged 65+ would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost



No money raised from the renewal measure could be used for administrators' salaries, benefits or pensions



SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR PAUSD SCHOOLS



Complete the attached survey card and mail it back to share your priorities for PAUSD schools. The survey is also available online by scanning the QR code or visiting tinyurl.com/PAUSD-Survey.

Please rate as High, Medium, Low priorities

You may give the same rating to multiple items.

	HIGH	MED	LOW
Attract and retain highly qualified teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain reading, writing and language programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue advanced programs in science, technology, engineering and math	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain manageable class sizes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepare students for college and in-demand careers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep instructional materials and technology up-to-date	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you currently have children attending PAUSD schools?

YES NO

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Comments/Questions: _____