

Los Gatos Union School District

Our Community, Our Students, Our Future



Connecting Hearts and Minds

- ♥ We believe in educating the whole child - academically, socially, emotionally, and physically, through a balanced and well-rounded curriculum.
- ♥ We believe in the importance of schools, parents, and community partnering to support learning.
- ♥ We believe that students learn best in schools that are safe, nurturing, and responsive.
- ♥ We believe that students are best prepared for the future when they know how to learn, problem solve, collaborate, and respond to change.
- ♥ We believe in every child's capacity to learn.
- ♥ We believe in educating students for global citizenship.
- ♥ We believe that the diversity of our students, staff, and community strengthens and enriches our educational community.

Together, We Educate the Whole Child

The Town of Los Gatos is truly a special place to live, work, and educate – and every day we are inspired by the students we are proud to support and the parents with whom we partner. You can count on our educators to inspire our children to grow into their best selves by learning critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can be applied in any context. Our four elementary schools and one middle school serve over 3,300 students. The Common Core Standards describe what students should know and be able to do. We educate all children to their unique potential by teaching, modeling, and supporting the skills and attitudes that contribute to each student's development as a globally and socially responsible citizen.

District

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Lexington Elementary

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R.J. Fisher Middle School

Tracey Calassa, President

A Legacy of Community and Collaboration

For over one hundred fifty years, our legacy of academic excellence has been widely felt in Los Gatos because of the generous donations from current school families, community members, alumni and local businesses. It takes a combined effort and 100% participation from our families, as well as local support, to offer our students exceptional programs.

The Los Gatos Education Foundation and the Home & School Clubs express the same ardor, shared experiences, and expectations for the future as our teachers, staff, parents, and students. Our schools rely heavily on a **blended funding model** that includes annual property taxes, parcel tax, and private donations from the Foundation and our five Home & School Clubs.

Why have a parcel tax, Foundation and Home & School Clubs? The parcel tax is applied to every real estate parcel in the Los Gatos Union School District boundaries (with the exception of seniors, who may apply for an exemption). Therefore, every property owner helps support our five schools at a base level. This is a fair and equitable arrangement since our schools have consistently proven to positively impact property values. The Foundation, in partnership with the five Home & School Clubs, is supported primarily through parents and community partners. These donations allow us to offer unique and competitive programs. And with your help, we can create a new legacy.

Together, We Can Build a Brighter Future

We look forward to working with the community to achieve greater heights during the next decade. The District faces two major challenges in continuing to offer a competitive, world-class public education.

1. Growing Enrollment:

- Since 2001, class size has increased to 24 students per class for grades K-3, and 29 students per class for grades 4-8.
- We must continue to provide and plan for facilities for growing enrollment.

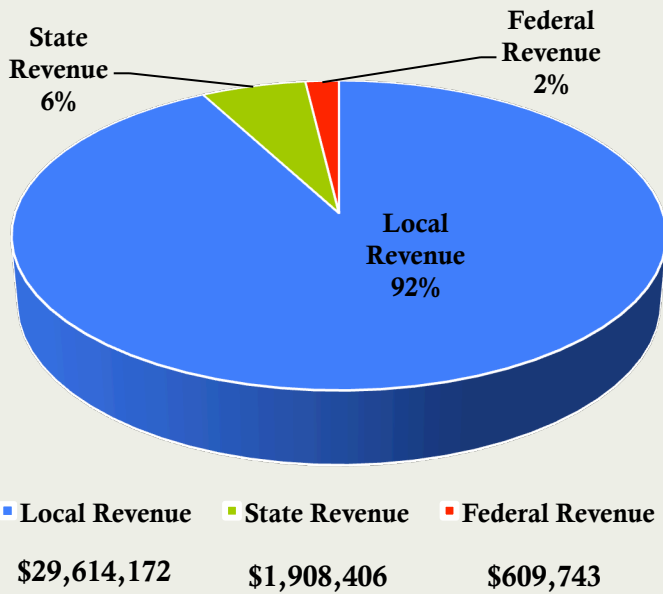
2. Limited Revenue:

- Revenue has not grown with enrollment. Financial contributions from parents and the community are crucial to support education of the whole child, including music, art, physical education, technology, and world languages.
- California funding for education is 46th in the nation. The new Local Control Funding Formula will not allow us to keep up with the demand of growing enrollment.

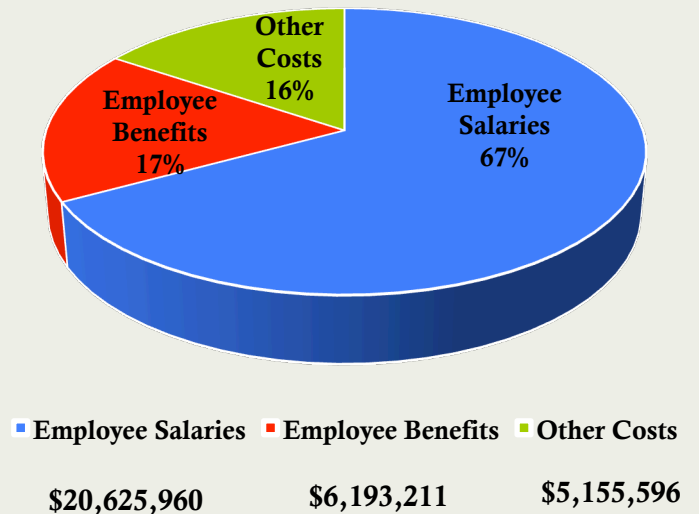
Financial Summary Report

The major source of our General Fund Budget of \$32 million is local support. Ninety-two percent of the local sources used to educate our 3,300 students in grades K-8 comes from property taxes, the parcel tax (Measure B), and donations from our Foundation, Home & School Clubs, and community partners. Few people know that with full implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula, the Los Gatos Union School District will be the lowest funded public school district in Santa Clara County.

**General Fund Revenues
2014-2015**

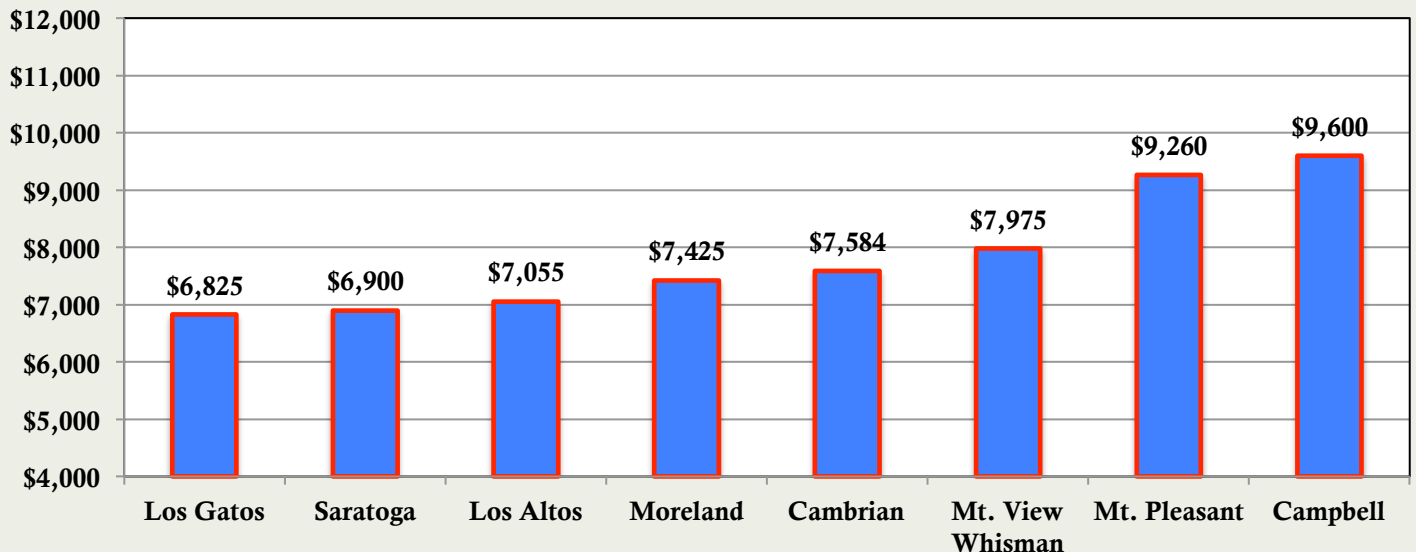


**General Fund Expenditures
2014-2015**



Funding Comparisons to Other Local School Districts

**Local Control Funding Formula
Annual Per Student Allocation 2015-2016**



Local Support from the Los Gatos Education Foundation and Home & School Clubs Reach Every Child in Every Grade K-8

For our schools to be a center of innovation and creativity, we need to offer competitive and rigorous programs. The Los Gatos Education Foundation and Home & School Clubs point our schools towards this kind of learning. It takes a unique partnership between the District, Home & School Clubs, and the Foundation to sustain all the outstanding programs the District has to offer. While all proceeds raised by each Home & School Club directly benefit a child at his/her school to supplement district-wide funded programs, all proceeds raised by the Foundation directly benefit every student in our five schools. Because of this unique funding model, our students benefit in the following areas:

Science

Our teachers continue to work collaboratively to develop interdisciplinary, project-based learning opportunities to foster curiosity, questioning, creativity, and innovation in the core disciplines of life, space, environmental, earth, and physical sciences.



Technology

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) shape everyday experiences. STEAM is an educational framework for all types of learners with the goal of increasing student engagement. Our students have access to laptops and tablets, enabling innovative learning methods that integrate the use of supportive technologies, inquiry-based approaches, and higher order thinking.



Music

Music education completely transforms a child's mind and opens up endless possibilities for learning potential. Each student in grades K-5 receives weekly music lessons. Middle school students have the choice to take classes in choral, band, and orchestral music.



Resources

Each school receives unique resources to address individual school needs. Supplemental support at the elementary schools includes literacy and library specialists, counseling, health clerks, and research-based books and materials. Academic supplies, drama, dance, as well as support for Safe Routes to School, allow for relevant and meaningful connections and learning experiences.

Wellness

Educating the "whole child" ensures each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. Our five schools pride themselves on being Project Cornerstone schools focused on building developmental assets. In addition, we are able to hire school counselors to provide social-emotional learning.



Physical Education

Physical education (PE) is an integral part of the total education of every child in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Quality PE programs are necessary to increase physical competence, health-related fitness, self-responsibility, resilience, and wellness for all students.



Art

Teaching students to be creative is a deliberate process, much like teaching mathematics. We offer an engaging visual arts program for every student in the District with a wide range of cultural and creative lessons.



World Languages

A 21st century education must include world language education. We are proud to offer K-5 Spanish at Lexington Elementary School, our International Baccalaureate World School. In addition, the District offers Spanish and French to our middle school students.

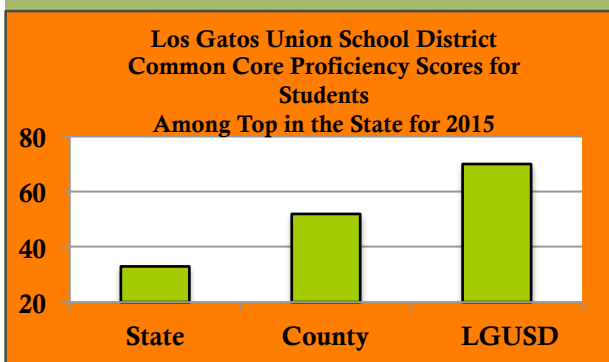
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LOS GATOS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT ★ TOGETHER, WE EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD

Local Support that Ensures Quality Education in Los Gatos

- ★ **MAINTAINS TOP-QUALITY CORE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN READING, WRITING, MATH, AND SCIENCE**
- ★ **RETAINS HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS**
- ★ **MAINTAINS UP-TO-DATE SCIENCE RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS**
- ★ **PROVIDES UPDATED TECHNOLOGY, BOOKS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**
- ★ **SUPPORTS ART AND MUSIC PROGRAMS**



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS, OUR
FACULTY AND OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS, VISIT
www.lgusd.org

