



Locally Controlled Funding for Arcadia Schools

Arcadia Schools Rank Among The Best In California

Thanks to outstanding academic programs in math, science, reading and writing, as well as outstanding teachers and a community that values education, our local schools in Arcadia Unified School District (AUSD) are a source of community pride. AUSD schools rank in the top 4% of all school districts in California and student test scores are well above the California standard for excellence. Over 90% of students who graduate from Arcadia Unified schools go on to college or other post-secondary training.

Locally-Controlled School Funding Has Sustained Excellence

In 2012, following consecutive years of deep budget cuts that included teacher layoffs, increases to class sizes and cuts to academic programs, over 67% of Arcadia voters approved Measure A to provide locally controlled funding for our schools that cannot be taken away by the state. Funds from Measure A have been used to keep Arcadia Unified schools among the best by preventing further cuts, retaining qualified and experienced teachers and protecting core academic programs in math, science, reading and writing. Since the passage of Measure A, an independent oversight committee has reviewed the use of funds and confirmed they have been spent as promised.

Local School Funding Set To Expire Next Year

Local school funding approved in 2012 automatically expires after five years. This funding will expire next year and Arcadia Unified schools will lose over \$3 million in annual funding. A funding loss of this magnitude would mean deep cuts including teacher layoffs, increases in class sizes, and elimination of many instructional programs for students.

Renewing Local School Funding

In order to continue this important source of local school funding, the Arcadia Unified School District Board of Education placed a measure on the March 7, 2017 ballot to renew local school funding at \$288 per parcel, per year. Funds from the renewal measure could be used for:

- Retaining and attracting high quality teachers
- Keeping schools safe and clean
- Protecting quality math, science, reading, art and music programs
- Maintaining advanced placement and honors courses, in such subjects as physics, chemistry and biology

Strict Fiscal Accountability Would Still Be Mandatory

The renewal measure would continue to require strict accountability protections including:

- An independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits
- No funds may be used for district office administrators' salaries and benefits
- By law, all funds will stay local to benefit Arcadia Unified schools and cannot be taken by Sacramento

Stable Education Funding Through 12th Grade

Sacramento has been an unreliable partner for funding our schools. Funding per student in California is among the lowest in the nation and Arcadia ranks among the lowest funded school districts in LA County. The renewal measure is designed to last for 18 years to ensure Arcadia students born now will have an education protected from deep budget cuts by locally controlled school funding until they graduate from high school.

Top Quality Arcadia Schools Contribute To Our Great Community

Arcadia residents benefit from living in a community with great schools. In addition to preparing students to get good jobs and contribute to our local economy, quality schools make Arcadia a desirable place to live and create demand for our homes. This helps keep our property values strong, which is more important than ever.

