



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
42.		Oppose	Monisha Parker	<p>When explaining the revenue and expenditures for the La Cañada Unified School District (LCUSD) for the budget years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, it's important to break down the information into clear, understandable segments. You might want to consider the following points to structure your explanation:</p> <p>1. Overview of the Budget Process Purpose of the Budget: Explain that the budget is a financial plan that allocates resources to support educational goals and initiatives within the district. Annual Cycle: Highlight that budgets are typically reviewed and approved annually, taking into account both short- and long-term financial forecasts.</p> <p>2. Revenue Sources State Funding: Detail the contributions from the state of California, which is usually the largest source of revenue for school districts, including local control funding formula (LCFF) allocations. Local Property Taxes: Discuss the revenue generated from local property taxes, which significantly impacts the district's finances. Federal Funding: Mention any federal grants or funding sources that the district may expect during these budget years. Other Revenue: Include any other income the district generates, such as donations, grants, or fees for services.</p> <p>3. Expenditure Breakdown Instructional Expenses: Describe the budget allocation for classroom instruction, which includes salaries for teachers, instructional materials, and ongoing education programs. Administrative Costs: Outline the budget dedicated to administrative support, including salaries for district administration, operational expenses, etc. Facilities Maintenance: Explain how much is set aside for maintaining and improving school facilities. Support Services: Highlight any funds allocated for student services such as counseling, special education, and extracurricular activities. Technology Investments: Discuss any expenditure plans for technology improvements, such as hardware or software upgrades. Transportation: Provide information on funding allocated for student transportation. Debt Service: Explain any payments related to bonds or loans the county has incurred.</p> <p>4. Key Changes and Trends Comparison with Previous Years: Provide insights into how the budget changes from the previous years, including increases or decreases in revenue or expenditures.</p>



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Impact of Enrollment Trends: Analyze how shifts in student enrollment might affect funding and expenditures.

Sustainability Initiatives: If applicable, mention any initiatives geared towards sustainability and their budget implications.

5. Future Plans and Considerations

Budget Priorities: Highlight key priorities for the upcoming budget years – for example, emphasis on STEM programs, mental health resources, or improving student performance.

Long-term Financial Health: Discuss the importance of maintaining fiscal stability and preparing for potential economic fluctuations.

Community Involvement: Encourage community engagement regarding budget discussions, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder input.

6. Conclusion

- Sum up the overall financial health indicated by the budgets for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 and reaffirm the district's commitment to providing quality education through effective financial management.

Additional Tips

Use Visual Aids: If possible, present this information using graphs or charts that illustrate revenue sources and expenditure categories for clarity.

Be Clear and Concise: Avoid jargon and ensure explanations are easy to understand for audiences with varying levels of familiarity with school finance.

Engage Your Audience: Encourage questions and discussions to address any concerns or interests that the community may have regarding the budget.

This structured approach should help communicate the complexities of the budget in a straightforward and engaging manner.

Strengthening a school district while reducing expenditures requires a strategic and multifaceted approach. Here are some ways La Cañada Unified School District (LCUSD) can work toward these goals across various expense categories:

Instructional Expenses

Collaborative Learning: Implement team teaching and collaborative learning strategies that can reduce the number of teachers needed for certain subjects.

Curriculum Review: Periodically review and optimize the curriculum to eliminate redundancies and focus on essential standards, potentially reducing materials costs.

Grants and Partnerships: Seek grants or partnerships with local businesses and organizations to subsidize educational programs and materials.

Utilize Open Educational Resources: Switch to free or low-cost open educational resources (OER) for textbooks and instructional materials.

Administrative Costs



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Cross-Training Staff: Encourage cross-training among administrative staff to build versatility, allowing for reduced hiring in the administrative sector.
Centralized Service Hub: Create a central office for administrative functions that can serve multiple schools to reduce redundancies.
Lean Processes: Implement lean management practices to streamline operations and cut costs without sacrificing service quality.

Facilities Maintenance

Preventive Maintenance: Establish a preventive maintenance plan to extend the life of facilities and reduce long-term repair costs.
Energy Audits: Conduct energy audits to identify areas for efficiency improvements, leading to reduced utility expenses.
Community Use of Facilities: Offer community rental of school facilities for events, which can generate revenue to offset maintenance costs.
Outsourcing Non-Core Services: Consider outsourcing custodial or maintenance services to companies that can operate at a lower cost.

Support Services

Needs Assessment: Conduct assessments to align support services more closely with actual student and staff needs, cutting unnecessary expenditures.
Community Partnerships: Leverage community organizations and volunteers for additional support services, such as counseling and mentorship programs.
Grant Funding: Pursue grant opportunities focused on mental health and social services to subsidize in-house programs.

Technology Investments

Evaluate Current Investments: Regularly assess the effectiveness of current technology investments to determine if they are meeting objectives or need adjustment.
Leverage Cloud Solutions: Transition to cloud-based solutions for data management and communication to reduce costs associated with hardware and software.
Student-Driven Initiatives: Encourage tech clubs or student projects that innovate on lower-cost tech solutions.

Transportation

Route Optimization: Utilize technology to optimize bus routes, minimizing fuel costs and improving efficiency.
Incentivize Carpooling: Develop programs that encourage carpooling among families to reduce the need for transportation services.
Negotiate Contracts: Regularly negotiate contracts with transportation service providers to ensure competitive pricing.

Debt Service

Refinancing Debt: Investigate opportunities to refinance existing debt at lower interest rates to save on future payments.
Long-Term Financial Planning: Create a long-term financial plan that prioritizes paying down high-interest debt.
Increased Revenue Generation: Explore additional funding sources, such as

				<p>grants or partnerships, to help pay off debt faster without affecting operational budgets.</p> <p>Additional Considerations Community and Stakeholder Engagement: Encourage input and collaboration from staff, parents, and community members for innovative cost-saving ideas. Continuous Improvement Culture: Foster a culture of continuous improvement where staff is encouraged to contribute ideas and programs that can streamline costs. Regular Review and Assessment: Establish a regular review process for all areas of expenditure, allowing for adaptability and ongoing refinement of strategies to meet changing needs.</p> <p>Conclusion By employing a combination of these strategies, La Cañada Unified School District can strength</p>
		Item Total	1	
Grand Total			1	