

# All California Schools Deserve Fair Funding

## Wealthy Schools Should Not Get More Tax Dollars

### Basic Aid District



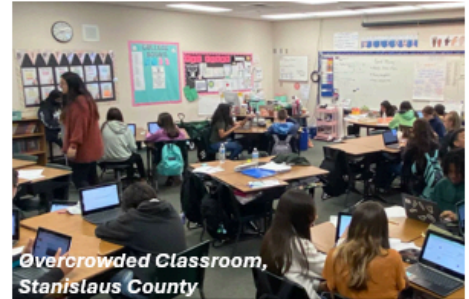
### State-Funded Districts Have:

More High-Need Students

Lower Tax Funding

Lower-paid teachers, larger classes, fewer programs

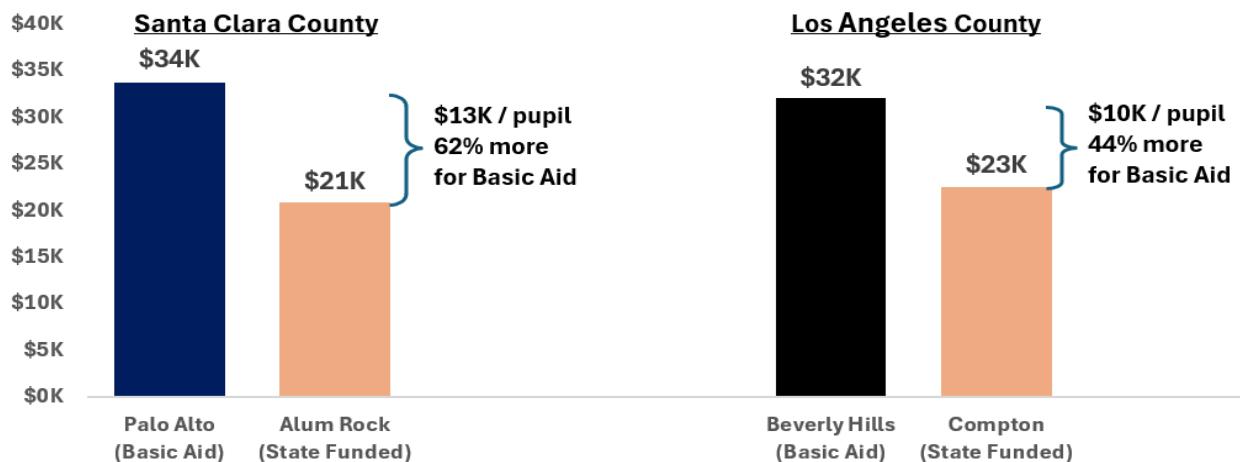
### State-Funded District



### The Problem

- Most school districts (90%) are primarily funded by state aid. **But about 10%, called “Basic Aid” districts, often in wealthy areas, are funded by local property taxes**
- **Basic Aid districts have more money per student to spend on schools - sometimes over 50% more (see chart below)**
- Moreover, Basic Aid districts almost always have **many fewer students with high needs, like English Learners or from low-income families**
- **And this gap between districts is growing, as property values go up and enrollment declines. In many cases, the gaps have doubled in the last five years**

### The funding gap between nearby Basic Aid and state-funded districts is 40% or more - and growing! Examples:



### How can we close the gap?

- We can **add more state funding for state-funded districts**. SB 743 takes this approach
- We can **cap Basic Aid funding at current levels**, allowing other districts to catch up
- We can **redistribute Basic Aid funding to all schools**, evening the playing field
- We can **open up the opportunity for high-need students to enroll in well-funded Basic Aid schools**

Learn more at [www.FairFundingCA.org](http://www.FairFundingCA.org)

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### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Have there always been Basic Aid districts? How did this happen?**

Before the 1980s, all CA districts were locally funded, and school funding was driven mostly by the wealth of each community. A series of court cases, starting with the well-known *Serrano vs. Priest*, required the state to equalize funding. Basic Aid districts are a remnant of that earlier era, when the wealth of a community determined the quality of its schools.

#### **Are schools in Basic Aid schools really different? What is the actual impact of this funding gap?**

There are very substantial differences. For instance, teachers in Basic Aid districts on average are paid over \$13K more than their State Aid counterparts, and on average have more years of teaching experience. The average class size in a Basic District is over three students smaller (and sometimes much more). And Basic Aid districts offer more advanced and elective classes than State Aid schools.

#### **Are the students in Basic Aid districts different from others?**

Yes, very different. State Aid districts serve almost double the number of low-income, English Learner, and minority students compared to Basic Aid districts of the same size. So not only do State Aid districts receive less funding, they also serve students with higher needs. This is the opposite of how school funding is supposed to work.

#### **Can we close the gap just by giving State Aid districts more funding?**

We could, but it would be expensive. To increase State Aid funding by \$10K per student would cost over \$50 billion a year - a huge increase in overall school funding, and almost 20% of the state's General Fund. More likely would be a combination of adding funds and redistributing funds across all districts.

#### **What can we do to make funding more fair?**

Changing funding rules requires state legislation. We need to build a coalition to demand these changes, and let the legislature know that fair funding is important to all Californians. Joining our coalition is a critical first step - we will propose and support the legislation to address this inequity.



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