



**Morgan Hill Unified School District
Potential Local Funding Measure
Frequently Asked Questions**

How are Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) schools performing?

Our local schools are part of what makes our community a desirable place to live. Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) provides an excellent, well-rounded education, empowering local students to succeed in school and in our diverse, global economy. MHUSD students graduate at a significantly higher rate than the statewide average and higher than most districts in Santa Clara County. All of our comprehensive secondary schools have been recognized as Gold Ribbon schools, the highest honor a school can achieve in the state of California.

What challenges are facing our schools?

Our award-winning schools are a cornerstone of our diverse community. Innovative classroom programs, like the Pathways program, and partnerships with major local companies provide real-world educational and career opportunities for MHUSD students, setting our district apart from the rest. However, our district faces ongoing funding challenges and in order to continue these core academic programs and retain quality teachers, a dedicated local source of funding is needed. Many districts in Santa Clara County receive as much as 30% more funding per pupil than we do here in Morgan Hill. MHUSD schools need stable, reliable, local revenue that will help preserve the quality education our community expects.

Does the District have a plan to address these challenges?

In order to continue excellent education in local elementary, middle and high schools and keep pace in the 21st Century, the Morgan Hill Unified School District Board of Trustees is considering placing a local funding measure on the ballot in 2018.

Specifically, how would a local funding measure protect academic excellence in MHUSD schools?

Funding from a potential local funding measure will be used to:

- Maintain core academic programs that focus on skills like science, technology, engineering and math
- Support student learning in computers and technology helping them acquire the 21st-Century skills they need to succeed in today's global market
- Maintain career-tech education programs so that high school students are prepared for college and future careers
- Attract and retain quality teachers and staff
- Provide programs to help children with special needs
- Maintain art and music programs



Would fiscal accountability provisions be included?

Yes. A potential measure would require fiscal accountability provisions including:

- All funds must stay local to benefit MHUSD schools and cannot be taken by the State
- Senior citizen homeowners would be eligible for an exemption
- An independent oversight committee would ensure funds are spent as promised

Can the State take away these funds?

No. All funds raised by a local funding measure would stay here in MHUSD under local control and cannot be taken away by the State.

Will any exemptions be available?

Yes, senior citizens will be eligible for an exemption from the cost of a measure.

Can't we rely on the State to fund our schools?

We unfortunately cannot rely on the State to provide adequate funding to support the level of academic achievement we have come to expect in our local schools. MHUSD currently receives the lowest amount of funding in California. In fact, many districts in Santa Clara County receive as much as 30% more per pupil than we do here in Morgan Hill.

Do other school districts in our area rely on local funding to support achievement in their local schools?

Yes. Many similar, high-performing districts in Santa Clara County depend on local parcel tax funding to support educational programs, including Santa Clara Unified School District (\$84 per parcel per year) and Campbell Union High School District (\$85 per parcel per year).

How much would a potential measure cost?

While no final decisions have been made, the District is considering a rate of \$75 per parcel per year which would generate \$1.3 million a year for 5 years.

How can I find out more about local schools or the potential funding measure?

For more information about our schools or the potential measure, please contact funding@mhusd.org.