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Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 PAID  
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 Pleasanton, CA

# A Proud History of Excellence

A NEWSLETTER FROM PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Neighbor:

Students in Pleasanton Unified School District receive an exemplary education. State assessment test scores for our students have risen each year since 2002, especially in those core subjects such as science, math, reading and writing. The quality education offered to students in Pleasanton is the result of supportive families, students who want to learn, diligent staff, and a community that is engaged in our schools.

Despite our continued student achievement, our District continues to face unprecedented state budget cuts. Over the past few years, the State of California has made deep cuts to our local schools. In response, we have had to make difficult district-wide decisions with a goal of limiting the impact on the quality of our classrooms.

With a forecasted budget deficit again this year, we know the State will continue to reduce funding for our schools.

In order to help offset ongoing state budget cuts and maintain the quality of our schools, the PUSD Board of Education is considering a local school funding measure. The measure would provide stable local funding for our schools that can not be taken away by the State. Funding from the measure would support core academic programs, help attract and retain qualified teachers and minimize class size increases.

All of the funds would go directly to our local schools and could not be used towards raises or benefit enhancements. Independent citizens' oversight would ensure all funds are spent as promised.

As members of our community, we value your opinion and invite you to stay involved as we review our priorities and consider our funding options during our upcoming board meetings.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 925-426-4304 or email us at [LocalFunding@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:LocalFunding@pleasanton.k12.ca.us).

Sincerely,

Parvin Ahmadi  
 Superintendent



**Superintendent of Schools**  
 Parvin Ahmadi

**Pleasanton Schools**

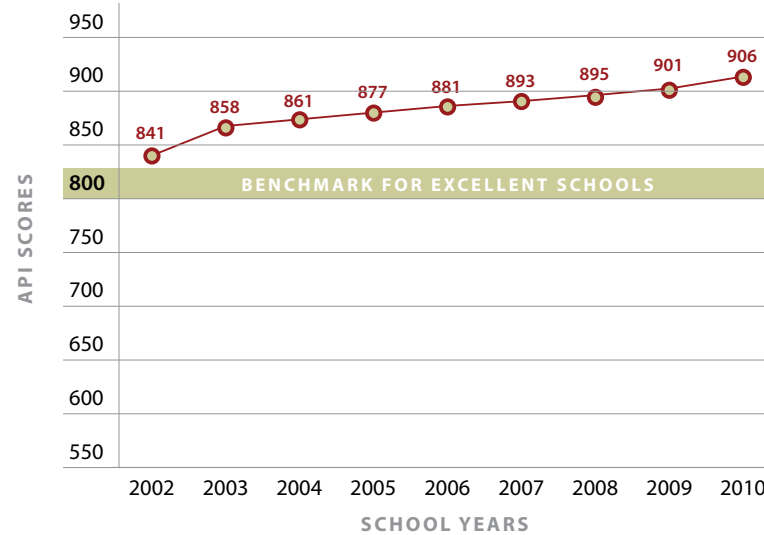
- Alisal Elementary
- Donlon Elementary
- Fairlands Elementary
- Henry P. Mohr Elementary
- Lydiksen Elementary
- Hearst Elementary
- Valley View Elementary
- Vintage Hills Elementary
- Walnut Grove Elementary
  
- Harvest Park Middle School
- Pleasanton Middle School
- Thomas S. Hart Middle School
  
- Amador Valley High School
- Foothill High School
- Horizon High School
- Village High School



# A Proud History of Excellence in Education

## Academic Achievement in Pleasanton

Pleasanton School District API Scores



Since 1867, our Pleasanton schools have maintained a proud history of excellence in education. Students in the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) consistently score well above the state performance target of 800 on standardized tests. Over 90% of our students go on to college.

In addition, all of our schools are California Distinguished Schools, National Blue Ribbon Schools or National Schools of Character.



Many families choose to live in our community because of our outstanding schools, creating a demand for homes and protecting our property values, which is more important than ever.

## Protecting Quality Education in Pleasanton

Recent state budget cuts have reduced funding for our local school district. PUSD's budget was cut:

- \$11.2 million in 2009/10
- \$8.2 million in 2010/11

With the ongoing State of California budget crisis, we can expect more cuts in the future.

Despite these cuts, PUSD has worked hard to utilize limited education funding efficiently in order to protect core academic programs and retain qualified and experienced teachers. Some of our reductions have included:

- Negotiating unpaid furlough days for teachers, administrators and staff at all schools
- Reducing administration, overhead and non-teaching staff to a minimum
- Increasing class sizes in K through 12th grade

After consecutive years of budget shortfalls, there is little left to cut but teachers and classroom instructional programs that directly impact the classroom.

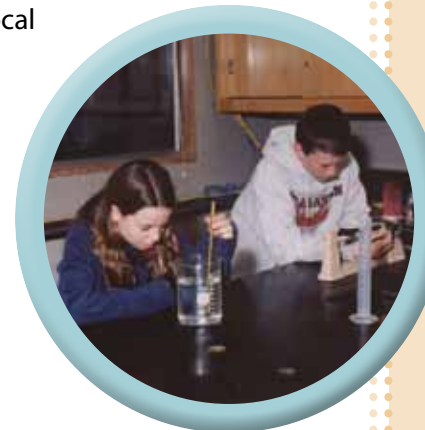


## Stable Local Funding for Pleasanton Schools

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees has evaluated several options for protecting local schools from future budget cuts and is considering placing a local funding measure on an upcoming ballot to:

- Generate funds that, by law, cannot be taken away by the State
- Support core academic programs that improve reading, math and science skills
- Help attract and retain highly-qualified teachers
- Minimize class size increases

The measure would not prevent all of the cuts but would help prevent some of the most devastating ones.



## Fiscal Accountability and Taxpayer Protections

A local funding measure would require strict fiscal accountability:

- All funds would go directly to the classroom to fund student instructional programs, not raises or benefit enhancements
- No funds could be used for administration or administrator salaries
- An independent citizens' oversight committee would ensure funds are spent as promised
- Annual audits would be mandatory
- By law, no funds could be taken away by the State or other school districts
- The measure would only be in place for four years and could not be extended without voter approval



## Board Meeting to Consider Funding Options

As the District continues to review the budget and consider a local funding measure, we hope that you participate and share your opinions. All community members are invited to attend the Board of Education's next meeting, Tuesday evening, January 25th, at 7:00 p.m., when the Board will be considering funding options. The meeting will take place at the District Office, located at 4665 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 925-426-4304 or email us at [LocalFunding@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:LocalFunding@pleasanton.k12.ca.us).