LGEF

Los Gatos Education Foundation

# 2025-2026 Annual Report

## A Message from the Board

Because of the incredible support from our parent community and local partners, the 2025–26 school year showcased the strength of what we can achieve together. Through gifts to the One Community LG campaign, and in support of the community-led LGUSD Strategic Plan, the Los Gatos Education Foundation (LGEF) was proud to grant ***$1.8 million*** to the Los Gatos Union School District (LGUSD), and invest in the programs and dedicated specialists that make our schools exceptional. We are sincerely thankful for the shared commitment of this community in ensuring every student has access to a well-rounded, high-quality education.

## How we Invest

LGEF's annual grant to LGUSD makes it possible to hire and retain credentialed teachers who provide enrichment at all four elementary schools, and a broad range of middle school electives. These educators provide students with consistent, high-impact programming in:

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math)
- Music, Dance, and Performing Arts
- Visual & Digital Arts
- Physical Education
- World Languages
- Counseling and Wellness
- Library Services

***These programs were highlighted as key priorities by parents, staff, and community members during the creation of the 2020–2026 LGUSD Strategic Plan.*** Because they are not funded by property taxes or public funding, these programs rely entirely on community support.

In addition to funding credentialed enrichment teachers and middle school electives, LGEF invests in ***technology updates, the Art Docents program, and supplies needed to support our comprehensive music curriculum at each site***. LGEF also supports ***$25,000 in Innovation Grants—educator-driven proposals that fund creative, forward-thinking projects aligned with the district's strategic goals.*** These grants encourage teachers and staff to pilot new ideas, incorporate project-based learning (PBL), introduce cutting-edge instructional tools, and enhance student engagement beyond what the general budget allows.

## Why Fundraising is Essential

While *property taxes fund core classroom instruction*, the enrichment and elective programs that make an LGUSD education stand out—STEAM, music, PE, visual arts, world language, counseling, and library services—are made possible through parent and community support.

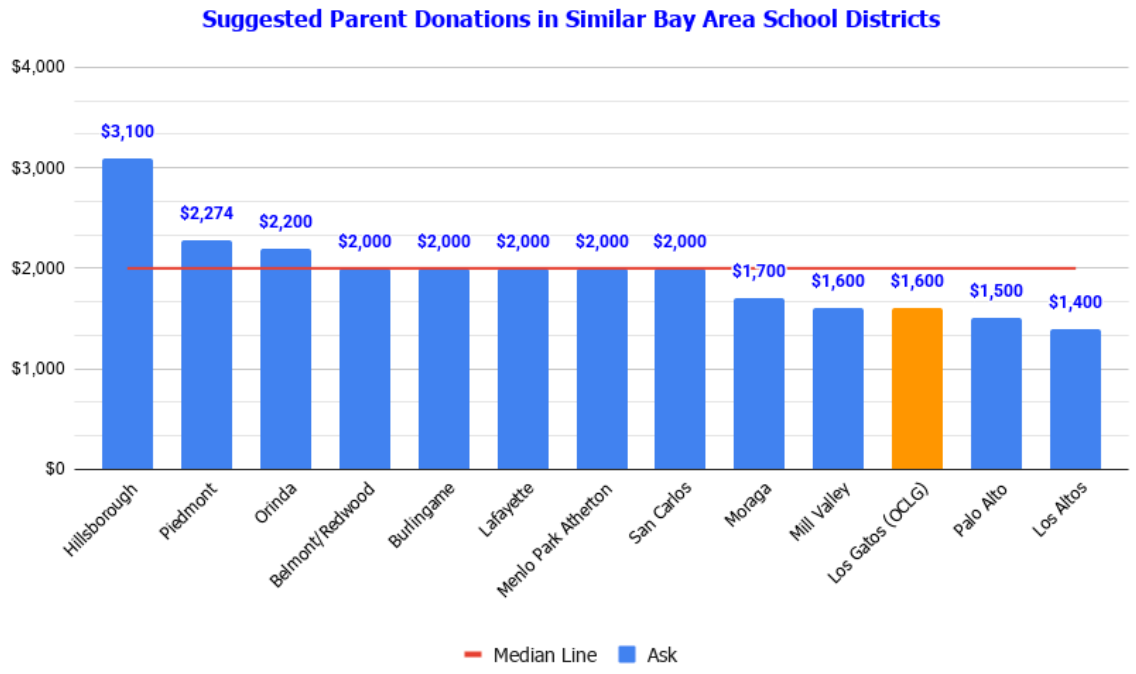
Guided by a Strategic Plan developed with input from families, staff, and the community, LGUSD invests in a whole-child education. By employing shared credentialed enrichment staff, the district ensures every student, regardless of school site, has access to the same high-quality educational opportunities and experiences.

The generosity of parents, business and real estate sponsors, event participants, grant partners, and community members is what allows LGUSD students to experience these extraordinary opportunities year after year.

## How we Determine the Suggested Donation

The One Community LG suggested contribution of **$1,600 per student** is not an arbitrary fundraising goal. It is based on the additional investment LGUSD makes in each student beyond what the district receives through property taxes and parcel taxes. This community investment allows our schools to provide the enrichment opportunities, credentialed specialists, and student experiences that families have identified as priorities through the LGUSD Strategic Plan.

***Comparable school districts also rely on annual parent giving to fund educational excellence.***




## One Community LG: A Unified Effort

One Community LG (OCLG) is a collaborative fundraising campaign led by LGEF, the five Home & School Clubs, Music Boosters, and LGUSD. By combining our efforts, we make it easier for families to give, and ensure all students benefit equally. ***In 2025–2026, the campaign raised <u>$2.46 million</u> with contributions from over 50% of our families. From that, we granted $1.8 million to LGUSD and allocated $566,000 to the Home & School Clubs.***

Through the OCLG campaign, donor support extends beyond district-wide programs. Twenty-two percent of all parent donations are distributed directly to each school's Home & School Club, helping fund student supplies, field trips, staff appreciation, campus events, classroom experiences, and many other programs and traditions that make each school community unique and a wonderful place for students to thrive.

**In 2025-2026, the $1.8 million grant to LGUSD was allocated as follows:**

**Districtwide (Grades TK–8)**

- Funds 1 STEAM Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA).
- Supports the Art Docents Program.
- Funds Innovation Grants that enhance teaching and learning across the district.

**Elementary Schools (Grades TK–5)**

- Funds 2 art teachers, 1 spanish teacher, and 1 physical education (PE) teacher.
- Increases the hours of 2 music teachers to expand music instruction and provide support at all elementary schools.
- Provides 1 PE specialist and 1 Library Media Specialist at each elementary school.

**Middle School (Grades 6–8)**

- Funds 1 STEAM teacher and 1 dance teacher.
- Funds 1 mental health counselor.
- Supports the music program.
- Supports the middle school noontime sports program.

## Financial Stewardship

LGEF remains committed to transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility of the community's investment in public education.

The vast majority of LGEF revenues are directed toward educational programs and staffing. In **2025–2026, *<u>85.25% of foundation revenue was allocated to the annual grant to LGUSD or individual Home & School Clubs</u>*,** enabling the district to provide exceptional enrichment across elementary schools and high-quality electives at RJ Fisher. This level of program funding reflects best-in-class operational efficiency among education foundations.

Approximately 10% of revenue supports essential Foundation operations, including compensation for two staff members as well as administrative and fundraising expenses.

**Financial Summary**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Revenue** | |
| OCLG Campaign | $2,460,000 |
| Business & Real Estate Program | $218,000 |
| Events, Grants, and Community Members | $82,000 |
| Less: H&SC Parent Allocation | ($541,000) |
| Less: H&SC Business Allocation | ($25,000) |
| **Net LGEF Revenue** | **$2,194,000** |
| | |
| **Expenses** | |
| LGUSD Grant | ($1,793,000) |
| Payroll and related | ($197,000) |
| Operational and fundraising expenses | ($88,000) |
| **Total Expenses** | **($2,078,000)** |
| | |
| **Other income** | |
| Investment income | $63,000 |
| Unrealized Gains | $152,000 |
| **Total Other Income** | **$215,000** |
| | |
| **Net Revenue** | **$331,000** |

## Looking Ahead

As we plan for 2026–27, we remain committed to transparency, collaboration, and strategic investment in programs that elevate student outcomes and experiences. Our goal is not only to sustain whole-child programs and classes but to strengthen them—by investing in staffing, training, and curriculum that support the district's evolving priorities.

We invite every family to continue participating in this collective effort. Whether through donations, volunteering, or advocacy, your involvement makes a difference.

## Thank You

On behalf of the LGEF Board and the thousands of students your support reaches every day—thank you. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant future for Los Gatos public schools.

***The LGEF Board of Directors***