

The Price of Knowledge

THE FIVE W'S OF PALY'S BUDGET

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WE SPEND IT EVERY DAY, BUT FEW OF US have ever asked where the money to fund our technology, books, worksheets, and lawn chairs comes from. What is the true price of knowledge and success in our nationally ranked, affluent, Silicon Valley public school district?

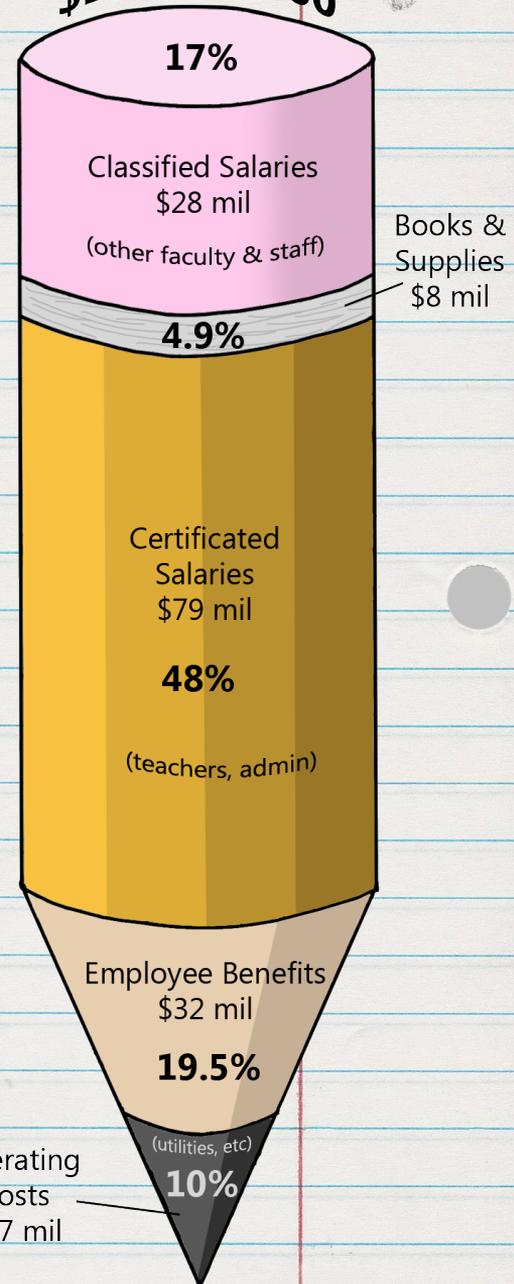
"You live in a gigantic bubble of pleasure and tremendous support," Principal Phil Winston says. "This district is pretty darn solid. Other places are still hurting, they aren't as fortunate as we are."

Relative to other districts in California and the country, Palo Alto Unified School District is community-funded, meaning it does not heavily rely on state and federal funding.

PAUSD's \$164 million budget explored on this page comes from many sources, including about \$130 million from property and parcel taxes, \$4.5 million raised by PiE, and state money, among other sources. The efforts of Partners in Education and the Parent Teacher Association largely contribute to the district's prosperity.

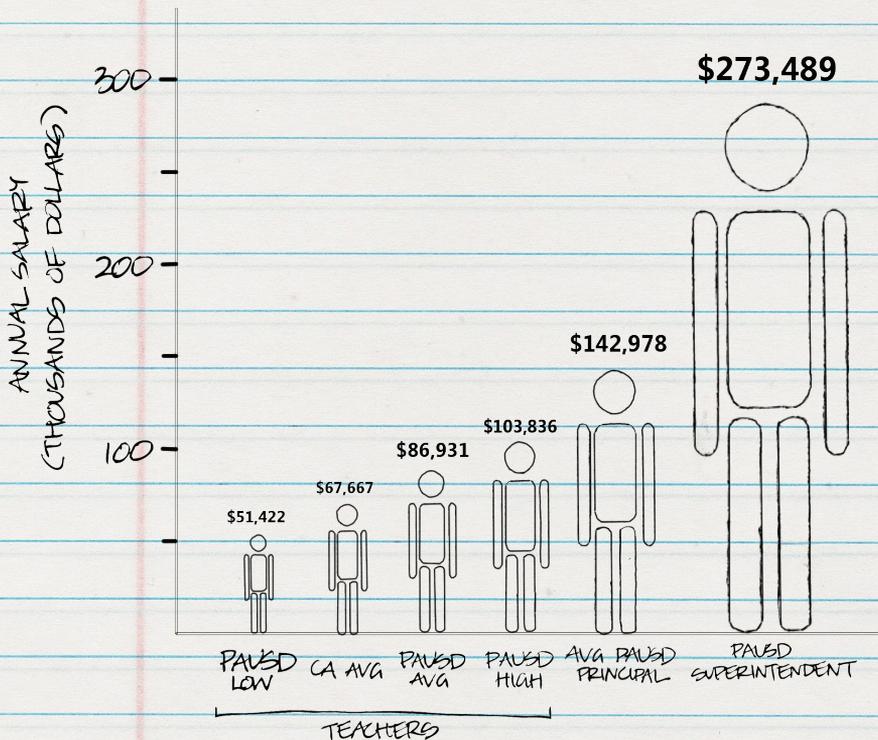
After salaries and benefits for faculty, about \$7 million of the district's allotment explored on the next page makes up the budgets of the 17 elementary, middle and high schools of PAUSD.

PAUSD EXPENSES
 \$164,000,000



Comparing PAUSD Salaries

WHO MAKES THE MOST?



Paly Income

Along with Paly's \$876,819 piece of the \$7 million for schools from the district, the school receives other spending money from private donations, rentals, the PTSA, sports boosters and more.

Supplemental Allocation (\$33,147)

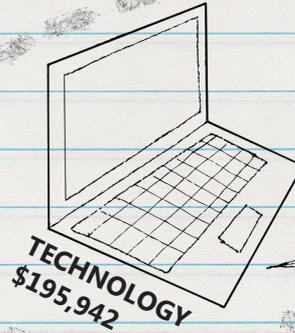
This pays for programs like driver's ed and AVID along with competitive events, music equipment repair, graduation, and student data processing.

PIE (\$501,260)

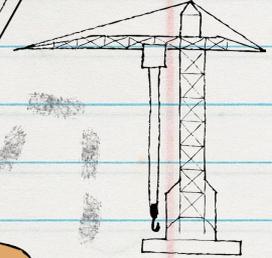
Pays for an additional guidance counselor, Link Crew, the teacher advisor programs, the College and Career Center, and enhances various electives.

Discretionary Funds (\$197,431)

A basic allotment of \$70 per student at Paly for its 1,949 students. Principal Phil Winston and Paly administration divide discretionary money as they want among different departments.



Also in Paly's budget is money for construction and technology from a \$378 million district bond.

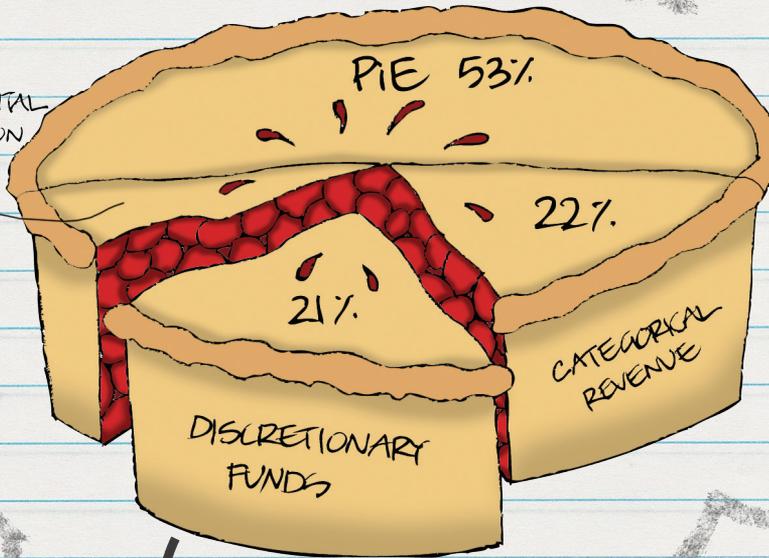


CONSTRUCTION \$98 million

Categorical Revenue (\$210,982)

Money allocated by the state for school and library improvement, textbooks, counseling, art and music.

SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOCATION 3.5%



\$40,000



PTSA \$20,000 DONATION

\$20,633

\$17,722

\$17,000

\$16,310

\$14,031

\$12,500

\$4,715

\$2,757

SCIENCE

ENGLISH

ATHLETICS

HISTORY

LANGUAGE

MATH

GRAD

JOURNALISM

ART

The piggy banks below represent some of PAUSD's discretionary money divided among some of Paly's main departments. On top of the yearly basic allocation of \$70 per student, the discretionary fund includes carry-over money from previous years, as well as PTSA donations.

"It [discretionary funds] is operating costs for the department, so it's Kleenex, paper, copying, stuff," Winston says. "All the other [district] money is already labeled for us; it can only be used in certain ways."

Most surprisingly, according to Winston, the majority of the discretionary money is spent on printing and photocopying. ▼