



ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Just the FAQs

Answers to frequently asked questions about contract negotiations with the Alameda Education Association

May 7, 2007

Committed to keeping you informed —

Our District has been in negotiations since March, 2006 with the Alameda Education Association (AEA) — the union representing our approximately 500 teachers — in an effort to agree on a new employment contract. We are currently at impasse in those negotiations and will be using a neutral state mediator to try to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. The Board of Education and district administration believe all stakeholders in the education community should have access to accurate, timely, and complete information. A lot is at stake in these negotiations that will affect students, employees, parents, and our community. This publication provides answers to frequently asked questions about the collective bargaining process, issues being discussed in negotiations, and District finances. Interested parties can obtain additional information by accessing the district's web site at www.alameda.k12.ca.us/negotiations or contacting the district office at the address and telephone number listed below.

How Alameda USD Compares to Other School Districts in our Area:

Base Revenue Limit Funding

Q: Which districts in our area are used for comparison during negotiations?

A: By mutual agreement with AEA, we generally use 12 neighboring school systems for comparisons.

These districts are: Berkeley, Castro Valley, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, New Haven, Newark, Oakland, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, San Ramon and West Contra Costa.

Q: Are these school district better funded than Alameda USD?

A: All but two of these other districts receive more state funding per student than we do.

State education funding is determined by two important factors: student enrollment and the Base Revenue Limit (BRL) established under Prop. 13 many years ago. This chart shows that Alameda ranks near the bottom in BRL funding.

These figures are from 2005-06, the last year of certified data available from the State of California. While our 2006-07 estimated BRL has grown to \$5,524, our relative ranking among comparable districts has dropped to second from the bottom.

In fact, districts like Berkeley and Castro Valley receive far more money per student than we do. Their 1% to 5% more in state funding enables them to budget more toward salaries, benefits and student programs.

Alameda USD receives from the state \$55 less per student per year than the average school district in our area. With nearly 10,000 students in AUSD, that equates to about a half million dollars (\$550,000) less for our students than if we had just the average Base Revenue Limit of our competing school districts.

Alameda USD has had to supplement state funding with a local parcel tax. Only half of the districts in our area (7 out of 13) have had to do that. Five of the six neighboring districts with parcel taxes also have higher state funding BRLs than we do.

Base Revenue Limit (2005-06)	Per student
Berkeley	\$5,427
Castro Valley	\$5,220
San Leandro	\$5,198
Hayward	\$5,194
Average per student funding	\$5,185
San Lorenzo	\$5,183
West Contra Costa	\$5,181
Newark	\$5,180
Oakland	\$5,172
New Haven	\$5,162
Livermore	\$5,133
Alameda	\$5,130
Fremont	\$5,128
San Ramon	\$5,100

Source: California Department of Education Form K-12 2005-06 (P-2) exhibits