



## **Frequently Asked Questions: Malibu Unification (Separation)**

As you may be aware, the City of Malibu recently refiled a Petition to separate the SMMUSD schools located in Malibu by seceding from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to create its own Malibu Unified School District. To address the many questions and requests for information we have received, we have created this Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ”) document.

This FAQ provides an overview of the Petition, the process, the SMMUSD’s and City of Santa Monica’s position on the Petition, as well as some background information on how the district is funded and how students in both communities have fared academically.

We encourage you to learn more about this issue as the success or failure of the City of Malibu’s Petition will impact the educational future of all SMMUSD students.

### **1. How long has the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (“SMMUSD”) been serving families in the Santa Monica and Malibu Communities?**

*The district was first organized in 1875, 11 years before the City of Santa Monica was incorporated in 1886. Students from Santa Monica and Malibu have attended district schools since the district’s formation.*

### **2. What does the City of Malibu Petition for unification seek?**

*The city’s petition requests the division of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District into two separate school districts -- one serving the students in Santa Monica, the other serving the students in Malibu. The Petition also seeks adoption of a formula for funding of the new districts that would disproportionately harm the students who attend Santa Monica schools. As proposed the Petition would provide less per pupil funding for Santa Monica students who would attend a newly created SMUSD than those same students would receive if SMMUSD were to remain. At the same time, the per pupil funding of students who would attend Malibu schools in a new MUSD would increase substantially.*

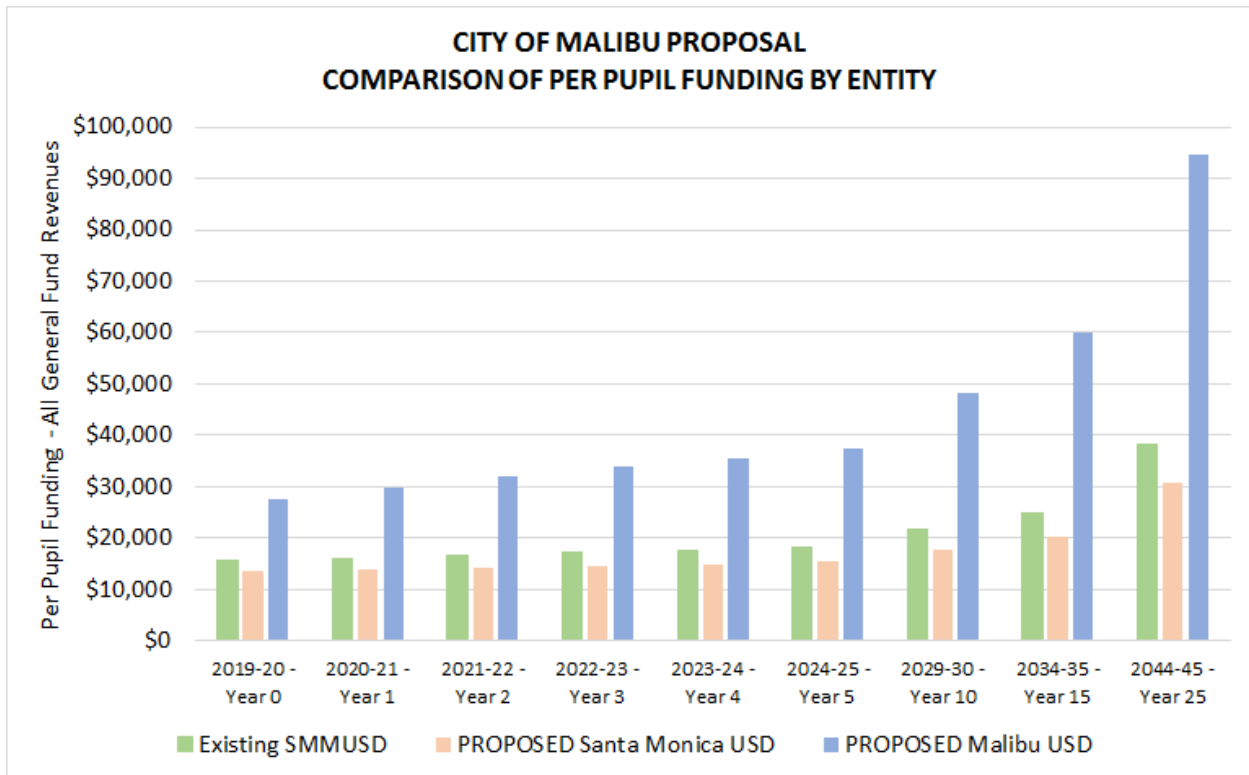
### **3. What is the SMMUSD’s position on the City of Malibu’s Petition?**

*The district’s board of education opposes the City’s Petition.*

### **4. Why does the SMMUSD oppose the City of Malibu’s Petition?**

*The City of Malibu’s Petition seeks to divide the district in a way that fails to address significant equity and access concerns. Specifically, the City Petition results in an inequitable division of funding and promotes the creation of a district with a significantly less diverse student*

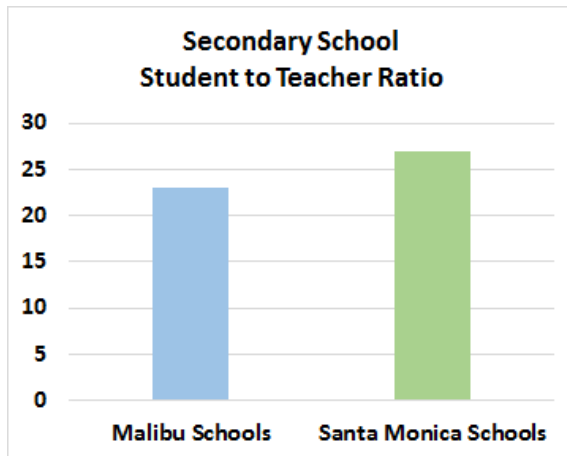
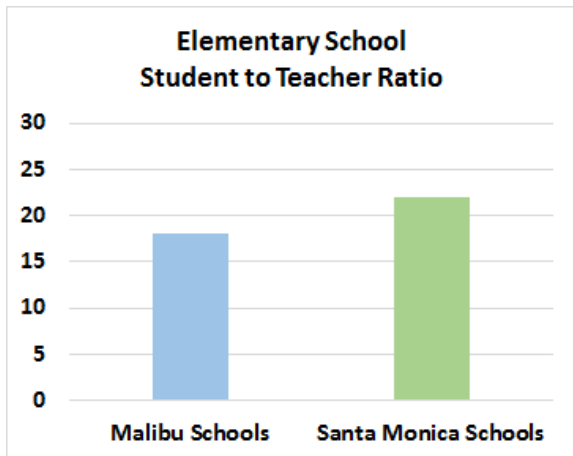
population. The division as proposed would harm the most vulnerable students in both communities, jeopardizing service delivery, including programs for special education students, English learners and at-risk students. Unification, in the manner currently proposed by the City of Malibu in its Petition, will have a significant negative impact on climate and culture. Our projections show Malibu starting at \$27,651 per student, while students in Santa Monica would be funded at \$13,759. In year five, Malibu students will receive \$37,599 per student, while Santa Monica per student funding will be \$15,486: a five-year growth rate of 36% in Malibu vs 13% in Santa Monica.



**5. Where does funding for the SMMUSD currently come from and how have Malibu students benefitted from the current funding model?**

The students and communities of Santa Monica and Malibu enjoy a unique and diverse portfolio of general fund revenues -- many of which originate exclusively from the Santa Monica community -- as detailed below. These revenues support both communities, with per pupil expenditures in Malibu exceeding the per pupil expenditures in Santa Monica. The per pupil expenditures in terms of human resources, transportation, materials, and programs are currently: \$9,856 per student in Malibu and \$7,606 per student in Santa Monica. The most visible reflection of the difference in expenditures between the two communities is in the class size average/teacher ratio:

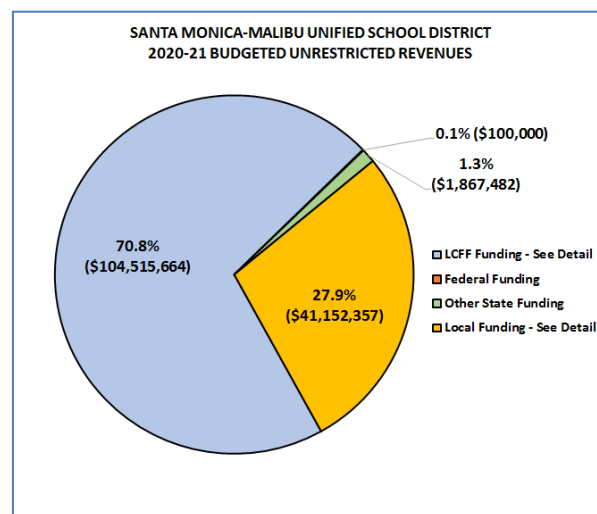
- 18 students per teacher in Malibu elementary schools
- 22 students per teacher in the Santa Monica elementary schools
- 23 students per teacher in the Malibu secondary schools
- 27 students per teacher in the Santa Monica secondary schools



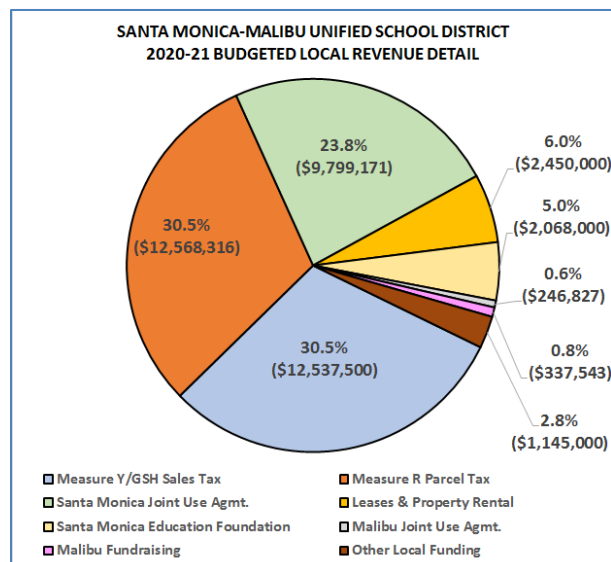
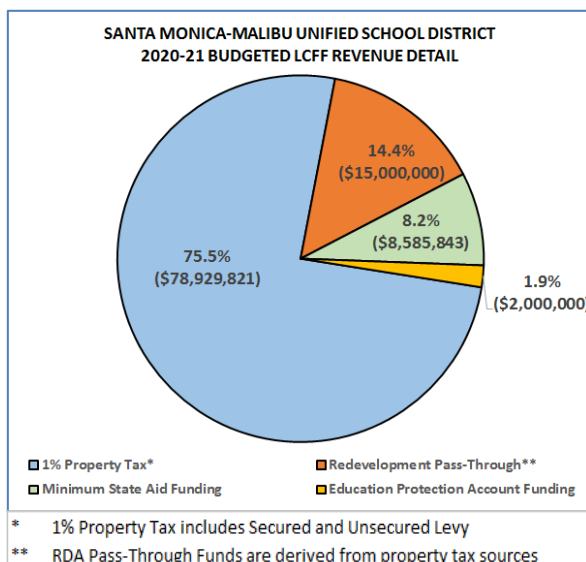
#### SMMUSD 2020-21 BUDGETED UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND REVENUES

LCFF Funding - See Detail	\$ 104,515,664
Federal Funding	100,000
Other State Funding	1,867,482
Local Funding - See Detail	41,152,357
<b>Total General Fund Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 147,635,503</b>
LESS: Special Ed. Transfer	(25,930,920)
LESS: Maintenance Transfer	(5,852,676)
<b>Net General Fund Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 115,851,907</b>

\* LCFF Funding consists of local property taxes and other revenues subject to State minimum funding formulas



*SMMUSD is required to transfer funding for both special education and facilities maintenance from its General Fund revenues to meet various legal requirements. As such the presented General Fund revenues are reduced to account for these encumbrances.*



**2020-21 Projected Sources of SMMUSD Unrestricted General Fund Revenue**

<b>SMMUSD proportion of 1% LA County Property Tax</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>State Funds -EPA -Minimum State Aid -Lottery -Mandated Block Grant -Other</b>	<b>Local Funds</b>
\$94,216,821	\$100,000	\$2,000,000 \$8,585,843 \$1,452,482 \$410,000 \$5,000  <b>Total:</b> \$12,453,325	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SM Measure YY/GSH Sales Tax: \$12,537,500</li> <li>▪ SM/M Parcel Tax – Measure R: \$12,568,316</li> <li>▪ Santa Monica Joint Use Agreement: \$9,799,171</li> <li>▪ Malibu Joint Use Agreement: \$246,827</li> <li>▪ SM Ed Foundation: \$2,068,000</li> <li>▪ Malibu Centralized Fundraising: \$337,543</li> <li>▪ Leases &amp; Property Rentals: \$2,450,000</li> <li>▪ Other Local Funds \$1,145,000</li> <li>▪ Special Education Contribution: (\$25,930,920)</li> <li>▪ Major Maintenance Contribution: (\$5,852,676)</li> </ul> <b>Total:</b> \$41,152,357 = Revenue \$9,368,761 = Net Revenue after (Contributions)

**6. Is there a significant difference in achievement between the schools in Malibu and the schools in Santa Monica?**

*No. Both Santa Monica and Malibu schools are highly ranked by every publication that ranks California's public schools, and with good reason. U.S. News and World Report has named both Santa Monica High School and Malibu High School as Top High Schools in the nation and state, reporting Samohi with the ranking of 914 in the nation and 134 in the state and Malibu High School for rankings of 817 and 125, respectively in 2019.*

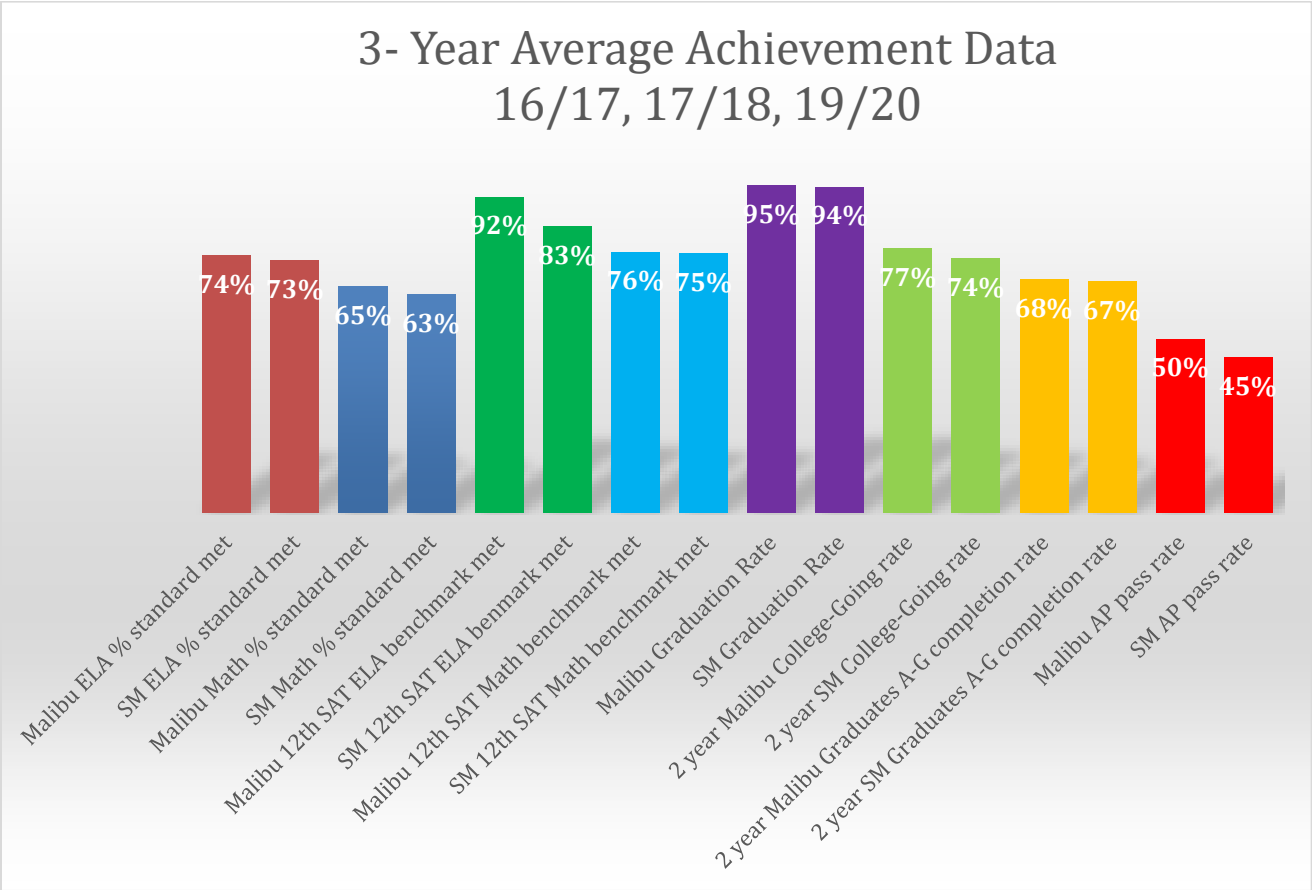
*In terms of academic achievement, Newsweek ranks Malibu High at 1371 and SAMOHI High at 981 in the 2020 National Rankings. Their California rankings are 193 and 139, respectively.*

*Below is a side by side and graphed comparison of how students in the Malibu schools compare with the students in Santa Monica schools:*

<b>Academic Indicator</b>	<b>Malibu Schools</b>			<b>Santa Monica Schools</b>		
	16-17	17-18	18-19	16-17	17-18	18-19
<b>ELA CAASPP results</b>	73.70	75.26	74.52	71.68	73.17	74.29

<b>Math CAASPP results</b>	69.76	65.34	61.22	64.14	62.12	63.43
<b>12th SAT ELA</b>	94.57	89.72	90.28	84.19	78.20	86.41
<b>12th SAT Math</b>	75.00	73.83	77.78	67.10	61.61	68.64
<b>Graduation Rate</b>	96.3	91.1	96.8	95.0	92.7	95.3
<b>College-Going rate</b>	81.0	72.1	N/A	75.1	72.2	N/A
<b>Graduates A-G completion rate</b>	74.5	60.7	N/A	65.7	68.2	N/A
<b>AP results- % pass</b>	51%	49%	51%	42%	46%	47%

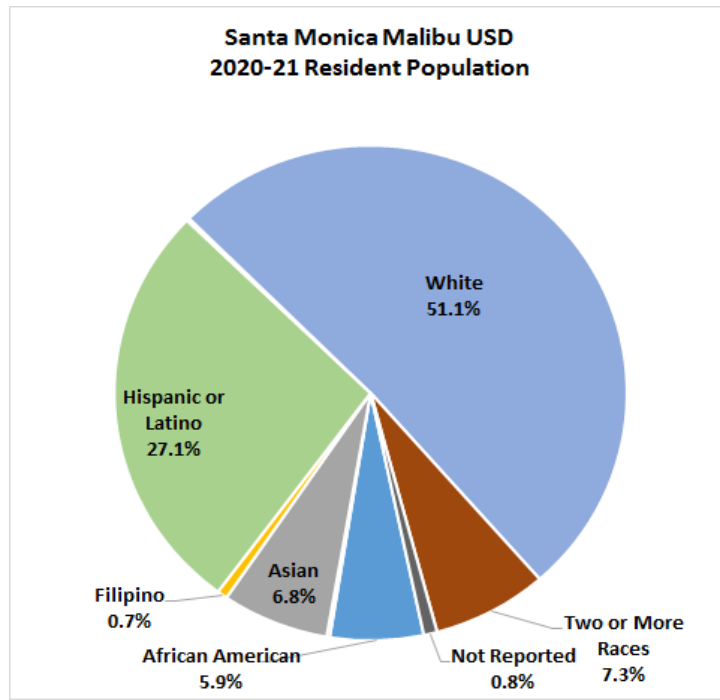
Source: California Department of Education



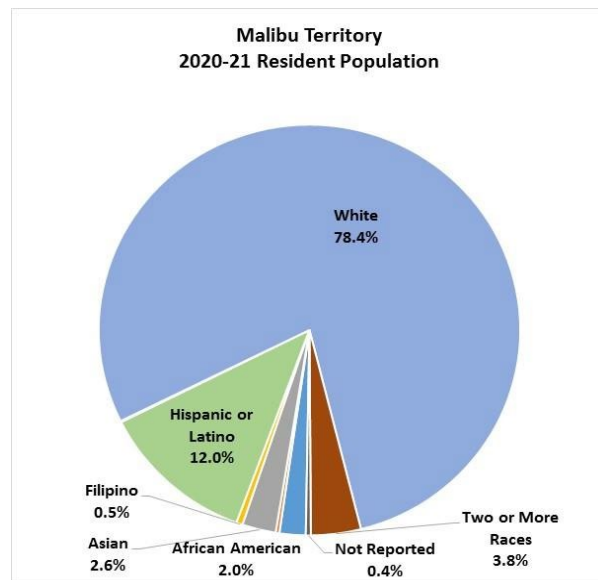
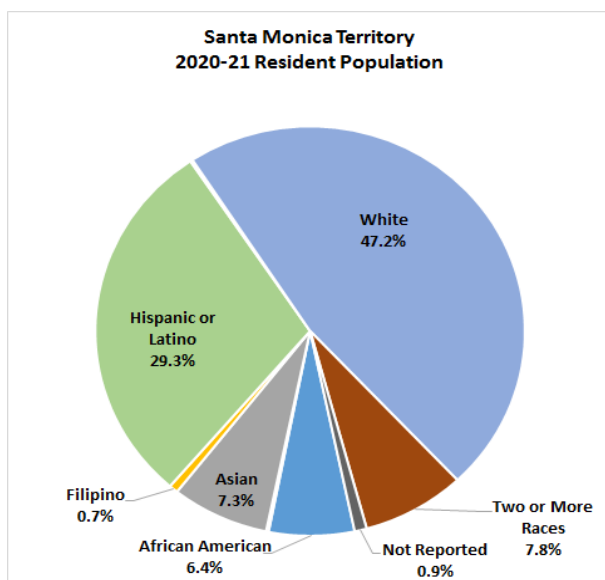
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**7. What would the resident demographic composition by enrollment be of each new district if SMMUSD is divided as proposed by the City of Malibu?**

*As proposed, Malibu USD will become a significantly less diverse district, while receiving a significantly higher per pupil revenue.*



*This graph shows the current enrollment demographics for the entire SMMUSD for school year 2020-21, exclusive of current interdistrict transfer students.*



*These graphs show what the enrollment demographics would be for each newly-formed school district if the district were divided as proposed by the City of Malibu, exclusive of current interdistrict transfer students.*

**8. What happens to interdistrict transfer permit students, who make up almost 14% of the current enrollment in Malibu, if the City’s Petition is granted?**

*A newly created Malibu Unified School District would need to decide how to deal with current interdistrict transfer permit students, who currently increase diversity. There is no mechanism in place to guarantee the acceptance of any future interdistrict transfer permits in a newly-created Malibu Unified School District. In fact, as a smaller, basic-aid district with higher expenses, there is actually a financial disincentive to accept new interdistrict transfer permit students.*

**9. What is the process for determining whether the City of Malibu can create its own school district for its residents?**

*The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (“Committee”) is the governing body that reviews and approves such proposals. Since the City initiated the Petition, the Committee will conduct at least one “preliminary hearing” where it will decide whether to “tentatively” approve or deny the proposal. If “tentative” approval is obtained, then a series of public hearings are held in the territories to be reorganized, ultimately culminating in a final approval or disapproval from the Committee (which approval or disapproval may be appealed to the California State Board of Education.) If the proposal is denied at the “preliminary hearing” the process concludes, resulting in a final denial of the proposal.*

*If approved (and after the exhaustion of appeals, if any) then an election is called where the voters can decide whether or not to approve the proposal. Whether the voters will consist of all of the voters in the entire SMMUSD or only the voters in the City of Malibu will be determined at a later point in time.*

*Without the benefit of a mutual agreement between the City of Malibu and the SMMUSD, the entire process can take several years.*

**10. What is the City of Santa Monica’s position on the City of Malibu’s Petition?**

*The City of Santa Monica City Council voted 7-0 on Nov. 10, 2020 to send a letter to LACOE affirming support for the split, but only if the terms of the separation, including but not limited to the division of revenues and assets, are “fair and just” to students in Santa Monica schools and provides robust and equal educational opportunities for both Malibu and Santa Monica students.*