

EXPLORING MORE EQUITABLE SCHOOL MODERNIZATION FUNDING

Public Advocates

May 22, 2024

“Facilities have a deep psychological impact on the people in them. Our facilities send the message that the staff, students and families are not worth investing in, and their education is not important.”



— Terrin Musbach,
Del Norte USD Climate Coach

The problem: Inequitable and unconstitutional school facility funding in CA

How the Rich Get Richer:

How California treats two school districts that are the same size, but have different capacities for raising school facility modernizing income:

\$10,000,000 1,000 students x \$10,000 per student
+ \$15,000,000 state match

\$25,000,000 total



\$80,000,000 1,000 students x \$80,000 per student
+ \$120,000,000 state match

\$200,000,000 total



“Del Norte county is the most northern county in the state with a small population and tax base. The funding distribution of state money makes me feel as though our community is an afterthought.”



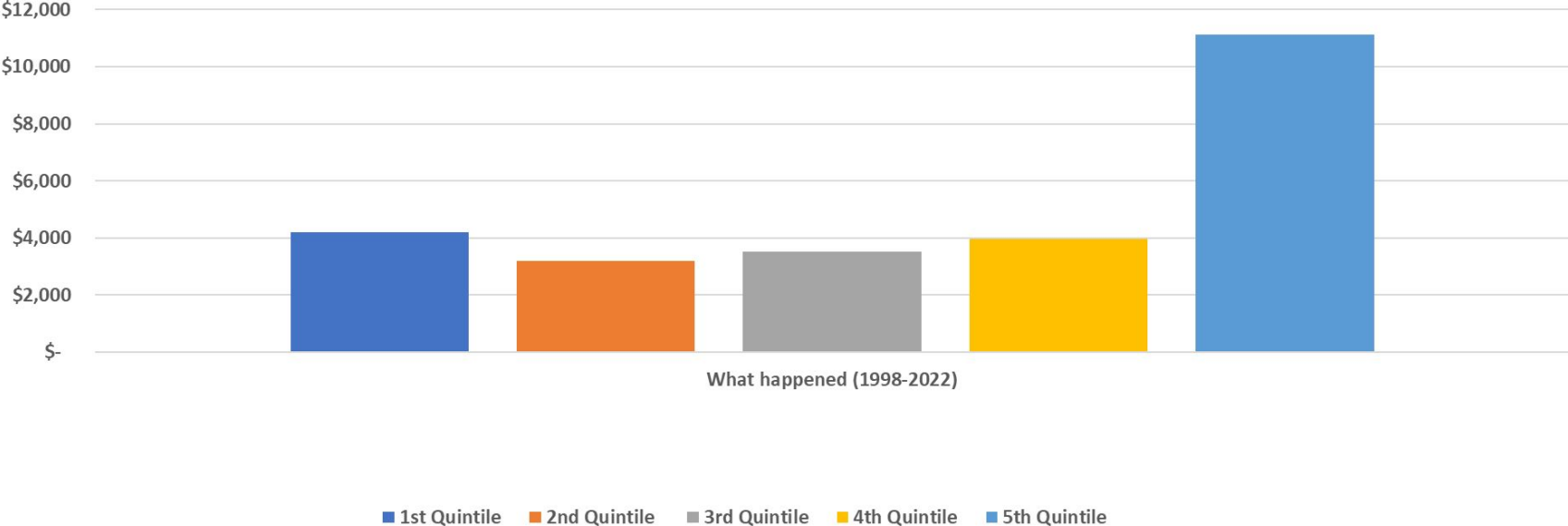
— Brie Fraley, Del Norte parent, Citizen of Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation, True North Organizing Network parent leader

Quintiles of assessed value per student

	1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile
Average SFP Modernization Funding per Student, 1998-2022 (2023\$)	\$ 4,211	\$ 3,177	\$ 3,521	\$ 3,964	\$ 11,115
Percent of Total SFP Modernization Funding, 1998-2022 (\$2023)	5.42%	6.65%	7.30%	11.75%	4.24%
Number of Districts	154	153	153	153	153
Total Enrollment	1,132,427	1,076,190	1,093,064	1,224,606	415,889
Percentage of Statewide Enrollment	22.91%	21.78%	22.12%	24.78%	8.42%
Average AVPP	\$ 542,943	\$ 974,301	\$ 1,522,082	\$ 2,571,471	\$ 9,450,504

Low-wealth districts get less funding from the state for school facilities -- *even though they have less ability to raise local funds and greater needs*

Average SFP Modernization Funding per Student
(grouped by quintile of avpp)



“Lynwood is a vibrant and culturally rich community, but [the area] was strategically underinvested and under-resourced. It was also subject to... the bifurcating Black and Brown communities with highways, subjecting us to lower assessed property values and environmental challenges.”



— Gary Hardie, Jr., Lynwood resident, school district alumnus, parent, and current school board member

Solutions and principles for more equitable school modernization funding:

1. Drop the match and adopt a **sliding scale model** (or +/-more).
2. Maintain and expand supplemental (hardship) program to address unmet needs.
3. Replace first-come first-served model with equitable prioritization and regular monitoring.
4. Establish a system for assessing facility age and needs statewide on an ongoing basis.
5. Expand use beyond classrooms to address community school infrastructure needs.
6. Robust technical assistance for districts that have low capacity.

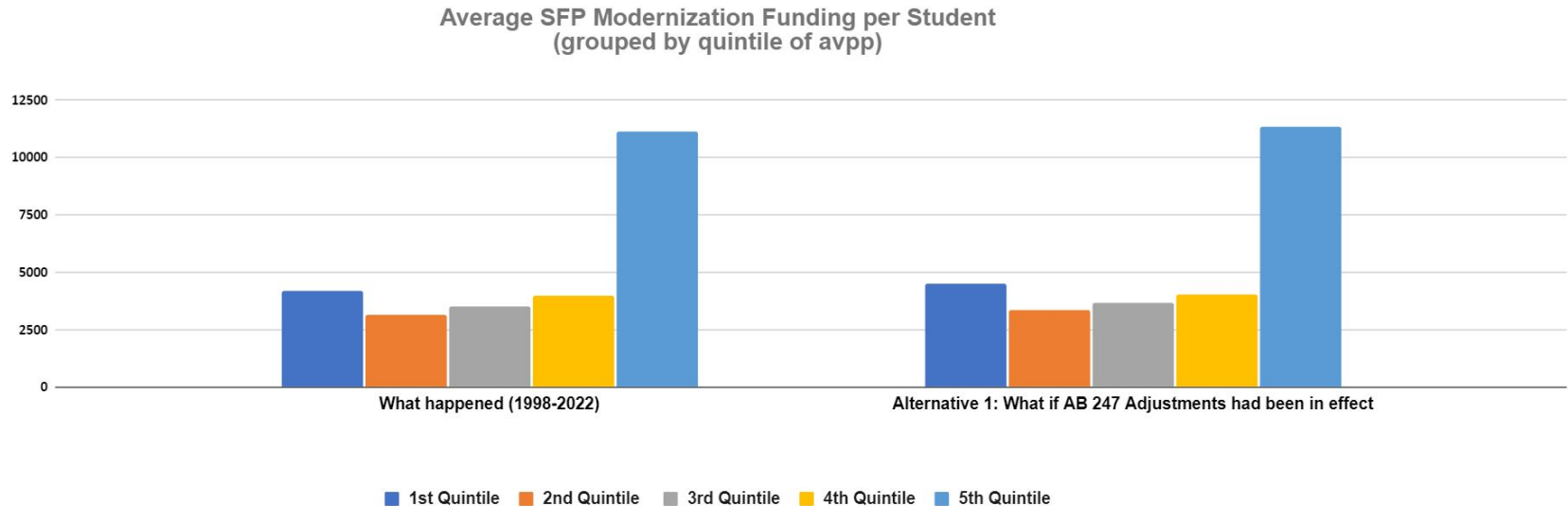
Current model:

- 60/40 state match program (same match % regardless of need).
- Financial hardship program is available for districts that cannot meet 40% local share.
- CA is in the minority of states that does not have a state policy that conditions state funding for facilities on local wealth (28 states do).

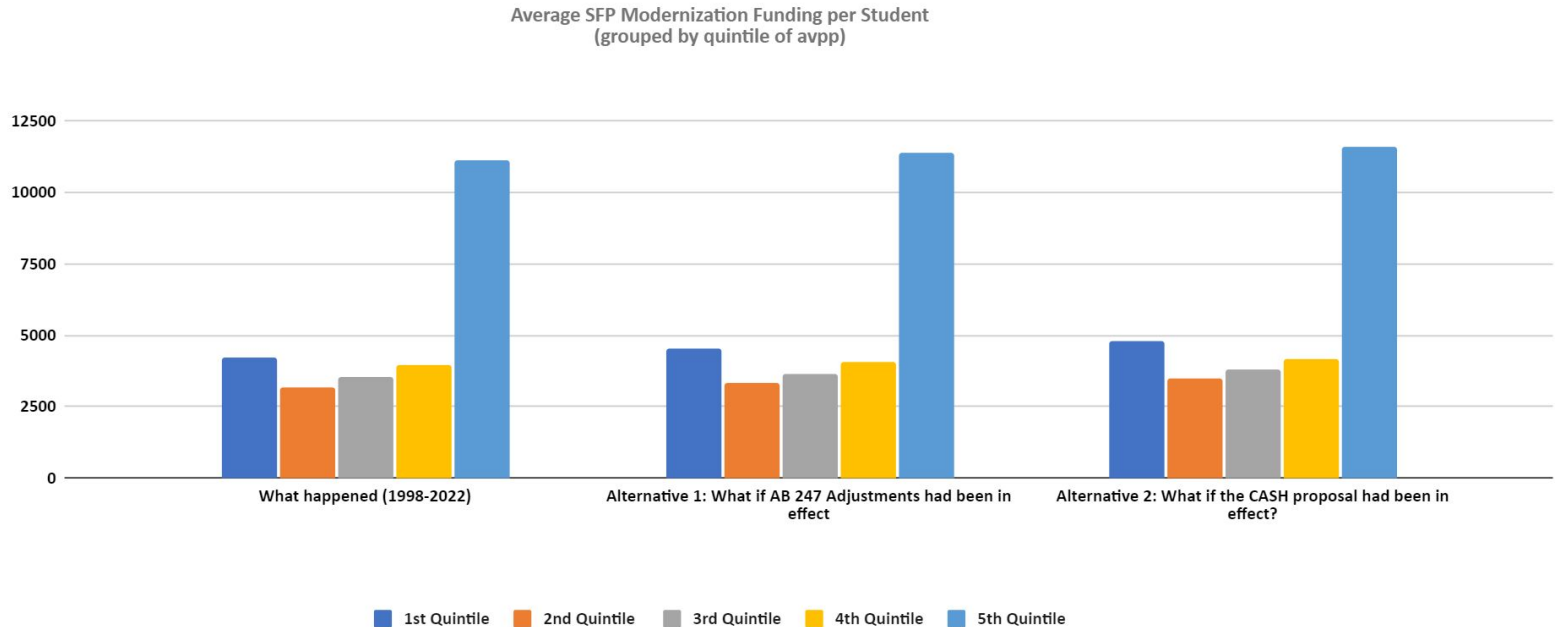
AB 247/SB 28 model:

- Point schedule
 - Bonding capacity/ student
 - 2X UPP %
 - 1 point for < 200 enrollment
- State share will stay the same for lowest-need districts (60% state match) and increase to up to 65% for highest need districts with the most points.
- This model does nothing to reduce disparity in modernization funding, nor does it repair the harm of underfunding low-wealth districts for decades.

The current legislative proposals won't address the deep inequities...



Increasing the state match under AB 247 to 70% would also not address the deep inequities...

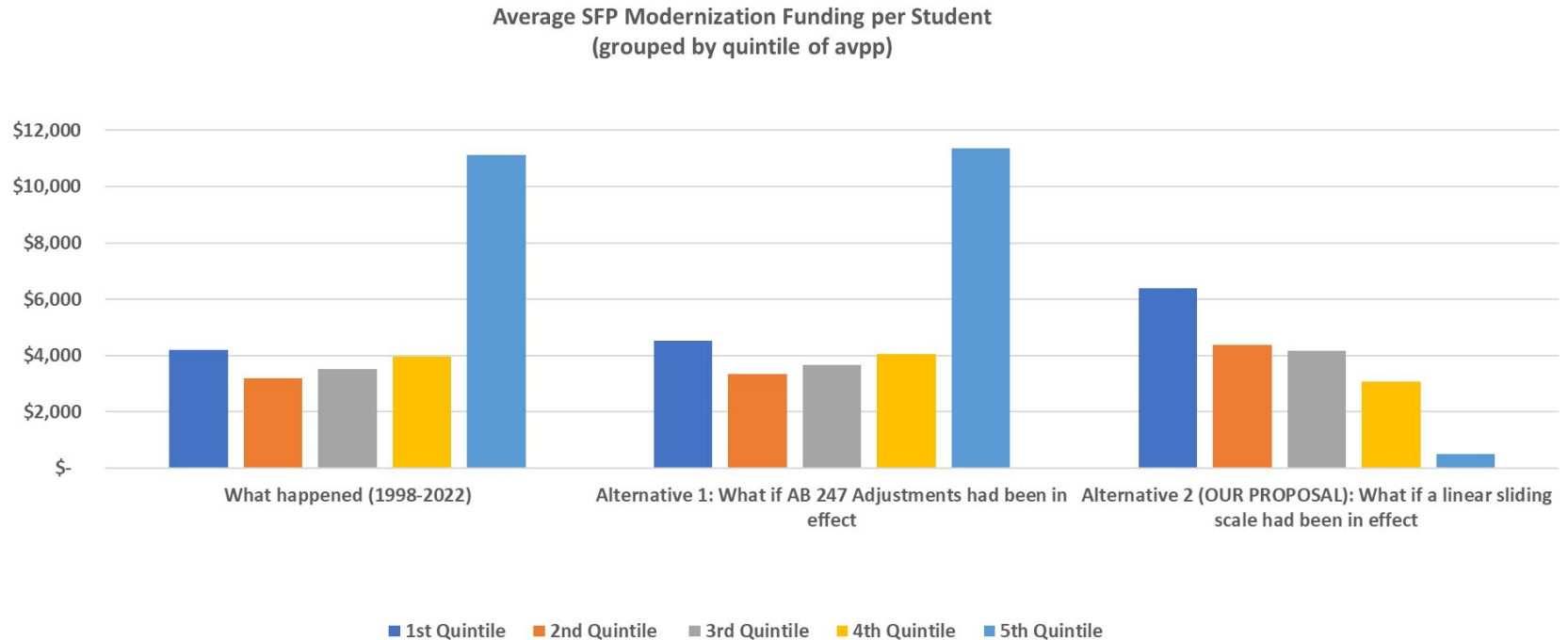


OUR PROPOSAL: A linear sliding scale

- Kansas model: Sliding scale based on assessed valuation per pupil (AVPP)
- The district with the lowest AVPP would get a 100% match.
 - The second lowest would receive 99%.
 - For every \$45,000 of increased AVPP, the state match would reduce match by 1%.
- Under this model, districts in the lowest wealth quintile would receive a 87%-100% state match and the districts in the highest wealth quintile would receive a 0%-23% state match.

<u>Selected Schools*</u>	Bonding Quintile	Current State Match	Proposed State Match Under Linear Sliding Scale
Lynwood Unified	1	60%	96%
Fresno Unified	1	60%	96%
San Bernardino City Unified	1	60%	94%
Del Norte Unified	1	60%	90%
Salinas City Elementary	2	60%	81%
Long Beach Unified	2	60%	78%
Monterey Peninsula Unified	3	60%	66%
Los Angeles Unified	4	60%	55%
Oakland Unified	4	60%	55%
Beverly Hills Unified	5	60%	0%

A linear sliding scale would result in an **EQUITABLE** distribution of state funds



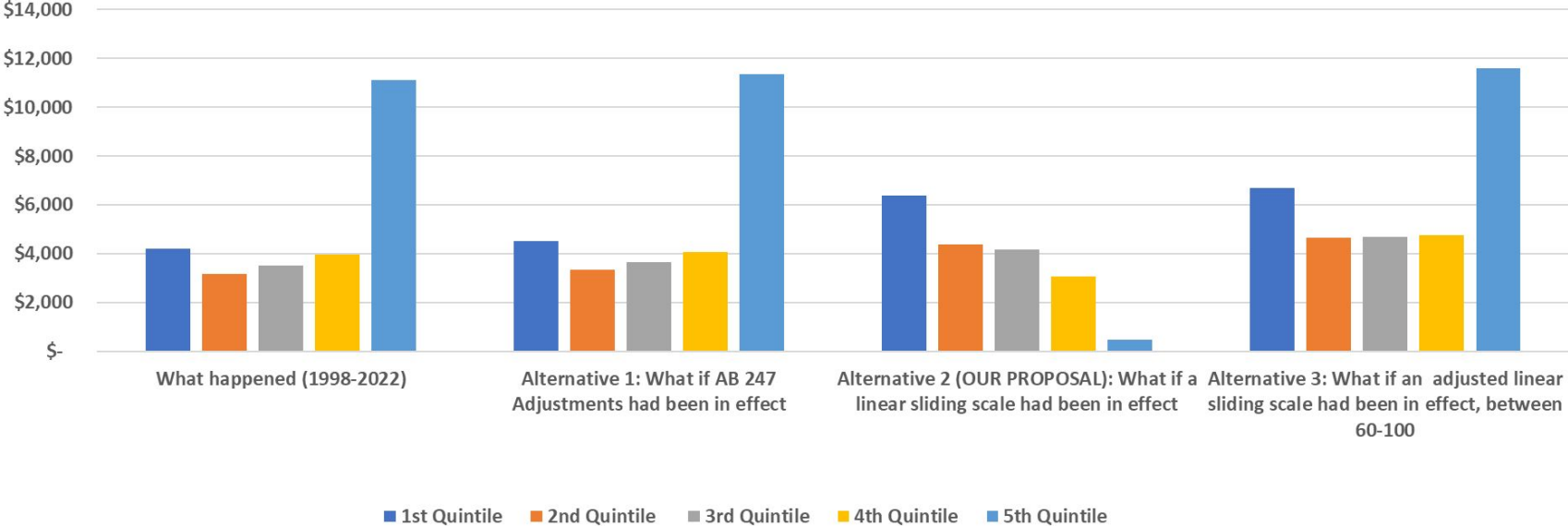
“Monterey County’s economy is built by farmworkers and hospitality workers who make poverty wages and cannot afford the high price of housing in Monterey County.... Schools are the [place] our students go to feel safe and obtain the support and resources they need.”



— Alma Cervantes, Director of Education Equity & Justice, Building Healthy Community of Monterey County (BHC)

Note: A Sliding Scale That Maintains a 60% Match Floor for All Districts is Still Deeply Inequitable

Average SFP Modernization Funding per Student
(grouped by quintile of avpp)



“During the summer in San Bernardino, temperatures can reach up to 115 degrees, but AC in our schools wouldn’t work. As a student, it’s almost impossible to focus in these conditions.”



— Angel Orozco, Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC) youth leader and San Gorgonio High School Class of 2023