

Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

New changes to the way we fund our schools



What is the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)?

California state law sets out the system for funding public schools. State leaders largely decide how much money is available to schools each year as part of the state budget process.

In 2013, California adopted a new formula for deciding how much money each school district gets, called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

School districts will decide how to use the funds, but under the new system they must get input from their local communities. They also have to tie their budgets to improvement goals by creating a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

How does the LCFF compare to the old school funding system?

BEFORE LCFF	PER PUPIL FUNDING OLD SYSTEM	PER PUPIL FUNDING UNDER LCFF	AFTER LCFF
<p>Much of the money given to schools districts was restricted to particular programs, called categorical programs.</p> <p>Amount of money each district received per student was called "Revenue Limit" and was based on a complicated formula not on the needs of students.</p>	<p>Categorical Funding</p> <p>Revenue Limit Funding</p>	<p>Concentration Grant 50% of Base Grant</p> <p>Supplemental Grant 20% of Base Grant For each at-risk Student</p> <p>Base Grant Grades K-3 Grades 4-6 Grades 7-8 Grades 9-12</p>	<p>Base Grant: Per student funding is now called the Base Grant with different amounts depending on grade level.</p> <p>Supplemental Grants go to help high needs students: English Language Learners, low-income students and foster children.</p> <p>Concentration Grants go to districts with more than 55% of their students identified as EL/LI/FY.</p>

Actual funding will depend on district's prior revenue levels along with other factors. ERT – Economic Recovery Target means no district will receive less money than under the old system. Most will receive more.

Under both systems, the Governor and the Legislature are mostly responsible for determining annually how much funding schools will receive through the state budget process.



Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF):

- ▶ Replaces the current state model of funding with a more streamlined formula and removes most existing spending restrictions.
- ▶ Collapses over 20 categorical programs (funds earmarked by the state for different types of uses with spending restrictions). However, some categorical programs remain, including special education, afterschool programs, school lunches, transportation and TIIG (Targeted Instructional Improvement Grant).
- ▶ Shifts decision-making to the school district level with flexibility for local communities to decide how to best spend resources.
- ▶ Requires that districts must use supplemental and concentration funds to “increase or improve services for EL/LI pupils.”
- ▶ Requires districts to adopt Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) that show how funds will be spent to provide high-quality educational programs and improve student outcomes. (See California State PTA’s LCAP flier for more information.)
- ▶ Implementation begins in 2013-14 and will be phased in over an eight-year period.

What can parents and PTAs do now?

Learn how LCFF and LCAPs work

You can start now by studying what your local districts/schools are doing and ask questions such as:

- ▶ How much will our district actually receive in LCFF funding? Will we receive supplement or concentration grants?
- ▶ When are budget decisions made and how can I get information early enough to give input?
- ▶ Does the district’s spending plan reflect local priorities? Does the spending plan match the district’s goals for student outcomes?
- ▶ How will the district be communicating information to parents? What kind of communication/outreach is being planned?
- ▶ What kind of parent advisory group will be formed by the district? When will they meet? How can I participate?
- ▶ Identify local advocates and support their efforts to ensure the parent voice is heard, as required by law, in the LCFF and LCAP process.

Your voice matters – join the conversation!

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