

Your voice matters



## Understanding school funding and how it impacts your child

California's school funding law, the **Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)**, is the way schools focus on student success.

The LCFF requires all school districts to involve parents in planning, decision-making, developing and reviewing Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). It also:

- Requires school districts to focus on eight key areas that help all students succeed.
- Provides extra funding for students with greater challenges.
- Gives school districts more flexibility in spending money to improve local schools.

**Now is the time to speak up for your child's education.**



# The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP):

As a critical component of the LCCFF law, every school district must engage parents and the community to create a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). The LCAP is intended to be a comprehensive planning tool.

Each plan must describe:

- District-wide and school-wide goals, as well as specific actions to be taken to achieve the goals for all students, including specific subgroups of students, in each of the **eight state priority areas**, plus any locally identified priority areas.
- Expected progress toward meeting the goals—and as part of a district’s required annual update of the plan, the district must describe actual progress made toward meeting the goals and describe any adjustments to be made.
- Expenditures required to implement each of the goals and actions, including a description of how additional funds provided for low-income students, English learners and foster youth will be used to increase or improve services for these students.
- The process used to involve parents, students, community members, school employees and other stakeholders in developing, reviewing and supporting implementation of the LCAP.

## Calendar for Adopting Plans

Every school district must involve parents, students and school employees in the development and review of its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

As part of the process, every district must convene a parent advisory committee and district governing boards must:

- Share a draft of the district’s initial three-year LCAP at a public board meeting and provide opportunities for parents and others to give feedback;
- Respond to any feedback on the plan;
- Hold a separate public board meeting to discuss and adopt the plan.

The LCAP and district budget must be adopted and submitted to the County Office of Education prior to July 1.

As a next level of oversight, county offices of education are required to review and approve each school district’s plan. School districts must then review progress and update their plans annually.

Each school district’s Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) must focus on eight priority areas that help all students succeed. These eight priority areas reflect PTA’s belief that many factors – both inside and outside the classroom – positively impact student success.



## CONDITIONS OF LEARNING

### Basic Services

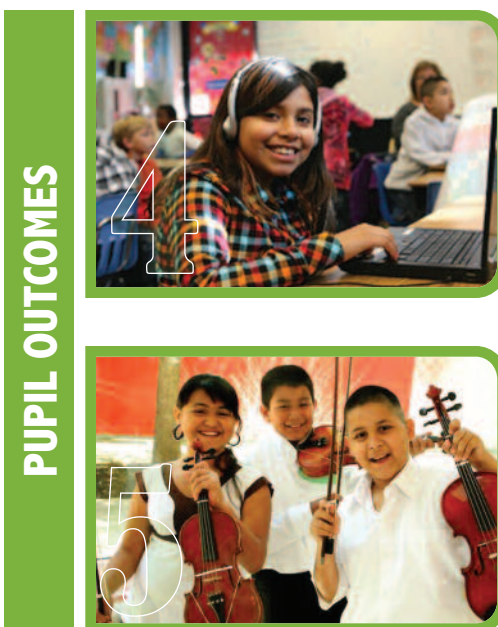
Providing all students with access to fully credentialed teachers in their subject areas, as well as instructional materials that align with state standards and safe, properly maintained school facilities.

### Implementation of State Standards

Ensuring school programs and services enable all students, including English learners, to access California’s academic content and performance standards, including California’s State Standards for English language arts and math, Next Generation Science Standards and English Language Development Standards.

### Course Access

Ensuring all students have access to a broad course of study in all required subject areas including math, social science, science, visual and performing arts, health, physical education, career and technical education and others, that prepares them for college and careers, regardless of what school they attend or where they live.



## PUPIL OUTCOMES

### Student Achievement

Improving achievement and outcomes for all students as measured in multiple ways such as test scores, English proficiency and college- and career-preparedness.

### Other Student Outcomes

Measuring other important indicators of student performance in all required areas of study.

# Eight priority areas to help all students succeed

## Want to dig deeper?

Learn more about how you can provide input into each of these areas by checking with your school district or visiting [www.capta.org/lcff](http://www.capta.org/lcff) to download our LCAP Quick Guides.



### Student Engagement

Providing students with engaging programs and course work that keeps them in school, as measured in part by attendance rates, dropout rates and graduation rates.



### Parent Involvement

Efforts by the school district and schools to seek input from all parents, and to engage parents in decision-making, as well as promoting parent participation in programs that meet the needs of their students and all students. (See the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide for suggested ways to measure progress.)



### School Climate

Factors both inside and outside the classroom that impact student success such as health, safety, student discipline and school connectedness, as measured in part by suspension and expulsion rates, and surveys of students, teachers and parents.

ENGAGEMENT

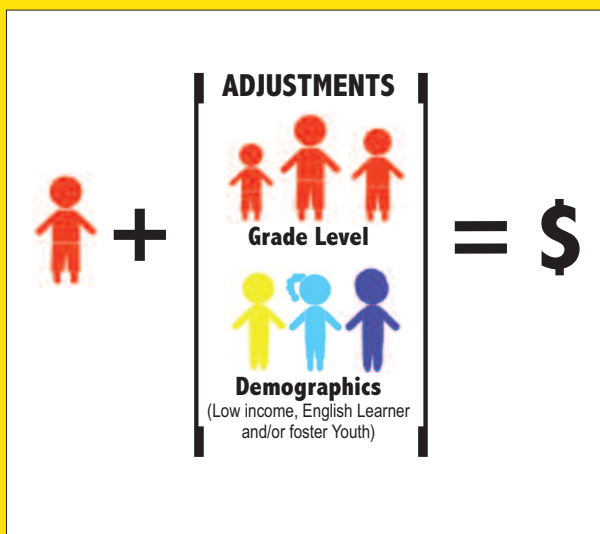
## Key questions to ask your school leaders about the LCAP

Each school district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) must be developed with input from parents, students and school employees. The plans must address the eight state priority areas. Here is a sampling of questions you can ask your school principal, district administrators and school board members:

- Where can I find my school district's LCAP?
- How, when and where can I give input on our LCAP?
- What are our school and school district doing to engage all parents in the process of developing and reviewing our LCAP? How can parents, staff and community partners work together to support student success at home and at school?
- What are we doing to ensure that all students are motivated to come to school?
- Do all of our students have textbooks and materials that are up-to-date? Are school facilities safe? Are we providing instruction by credentialed teachers in all subject areas?
- What are we doing to prepare and train our staff on the state standards and assessments?
- How is our school district improving or increasing services for low-income students, English learners and foster youth?
- Do all of our students have access to a complete education that includes the arts, physical education and other required courses?
- In what ways does school climate impact student achievement? What is being done to improve school climate so all students have a positive school experience?
- In what different ways is our district measuring student achievement?
- How are we increasing our graduation rates and reducing the number of drop outs?

## How does the Local Control Funding Formula work?

The LCFF changes the way the state provides money to school districts. Under this system, school districts receive a uniform **base grant** for every student, adjusted by grade level. School districts receive additional **supplemental grants** for students with greater challenges, defined as low-income students, English learners and foster youth. Districts receive additional **concentration grant** funding when the numbers of these students enrolled in a district make up more than 55 percent of a district's total enrollment.



# Your voice matters – join the conversation!

**W**hen parents and families take an active role in their children's education both at home and in the community, children perform better in school and have a better chance of furthering their education.

## Get the facts!

- Find out what your school district is doing to engage you and all parents.
- Talk with your children's teachers and principal.
- Share your ideas directly with administrators and school board members. Attend a meeting or volunteer to serve on a committee.
- Talk with other parents and connect with your local PTA.
- Learn more about the eight priority areas of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and how they can help your child succeed.



## Learn more – get engaged!

Here are a number of other great resources to learn more and to get engaged:

- **Your local school district's website** – A good place to start to learn more about programs and services at your school. Be sure to also look at the School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) that must be posted for each school.
- **California State PTA** – Informational videos, fliers and more in multiple languages available to PTAs and all parents at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).
- **EdSource.org** – Offers a guide to the LCFF along with news and information about California K-12 finance system.

More great resources, videos, comprehensive information and tools are available at:

- [WestEd.org](http://WestEd.org)
- [cde.ca.gov](http://cde.ca.gov)
- [EdTrust.org](http://EdTrust.org) and [FairShare4Kids.org](http://FairShare4Kids.org)
- [Ed100.org](http://Ed100.org)
- [ChildrenNow.org](http://ChildrenNow.org)
- [Ed-Data.org](http://Ed-Data.org)



The California State PTA website is your "go-to" place for the latest information and resources on the LCFF and family engagement! Materials are available in multiple languages.

- Videos
- Presentations
- Fliers
- Handouts
- News
- Articles
- Links
- And more!