

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

OCTOBER 2013

PTA members should be active in school district LCFF process

California's new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) gives school districts more control over their budgets than they have had in decades. Since most categorical funding has been eliminated, school boards will decide how to allocate funding to best serve the needs of their students. These decisions must be made with the participation of district staff, parents and the public.

As this new system is implemented it is important for PTA members to understand how LCFF works and to prepare to be actively involved in the process.

The new formula includes measures to ensure accountability and transparency. Each school district is required to develop a 3-year Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The plan must be submitted to the county department of education for approval and must be reviewed and updated every year. It must specify how the district will improve performance among all students and how additional state funding for disadvantaged students benefits those children.

The LCAP must be developed and approved as part of the school district's budget. In putting together their plans, school boards are required to:

- Consult with teachers, principals, administrators, other school staff, parents and pupils.
- Establish a Parent Advisory Committee to provide advice on LCAP requirements.
- Establish an English Learner Parent Advisory Committee if the district English learner enrollment is at least 15 percent and 50 pupils.
- Hold at least one public hearing to solicit recommendations and comments from the public.
- Adopt the LCAP in a public meeting held after and not on the same day as the public hearing.

Since the state Board of Education hasn't completed the template for the LCAP yet, school districts won't be required to submit their first LCAP until July of 2014. In the meanwhile, districts should be looking at their funding levels, developing tentative plans and putting together mechanisms to collect input from their constituents.

It is important to remember that LCFF is a re-allocation of current funding, not a funding increase. This

Calendar of Events

School Success Express Forum on LCFF in Santa Ana
Tuesday, October 29 (Information on page 2)

Advocacy Roundtable

Friday, November 15 10:30 - 12 noon

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, 92708

★ **Open to all PTA members.**

year school districts will receive roughly the same amount as in 2012-13. The state plans to increase funding in each of the next years, bringing school districts back to 2007-08 funding levels in eight years. California will continue to have one of the lowest per-pupil spending rates in the nation and will be at or near the bottom in almost every measure, including class size, administrators, librarians, nurses and counselors.

California State PTA is actively involved in the implementation of LCFF. Two state PTA representatives, Patty Scriptor and Cecelia Mansfield, are serving on the LCFF Implementation Working Group, the state's main advisory group on the development of regulations to ensure transparency, accountability and parent involvement.

What should PTA members do to prepare for LCFF?

- Learn about LCFF and LCAP and how they work.
- Discuss the new funding method and accountability plan at PTA meetings. Emphasize the importance of parent involvement in the school district budget-making process.
- Talk to your superintendent and school board members to find out how LCFF and LCAP will be implemented in your school district.
- Find out how the mandatory parent advisory committee will be formed in your district.
- Stay connected to Fourth District PTA and California State PTA for information and potential action.

Resources:

Both California State PTA and Fourth District PTA are providing information on the new school funding system. Be sure to stay connected at www.capta.org and www.fourthdistrictpta.org. Sign up for LegLinks advocacy updates on the Fourth District PTA website.

(continued on page 2)

LCFF Resources (continued from page 1)

Other sources of information include:

- <http://lcff.wested.org/> California State Board of Education LCFF Resource Site. Offers brief instructional videos on LCFF, updated weekly. Enter your email address to be notified when updates are posted.
- www.cde.ca.gov California State Department of Education
- www.edsource.org EdSource, a website devoted to California public education

LCFF Glossary

Base Grant The per-student amount every school district receives, depending on the grade levels that are served.

Supplemental Grant An additional 20 percent of the base grant that districts receive for students who are low income, English learners or foster children.

Concentration Grant Districts with 55 percent or more of students who are low income, English learners or foster children receive an additional 50 percent of the base grant for each student above the 55 percent mark.

Local Control Accountability Plan The plan that each school district must develop in conjunction with its budget to identify performance goals for all students and measure progress for student subgroups across multiple performance indicators.

Economic Recovery Target State funding is increased every year to ensure that each district is at least restored to its 2007-08 state funding levels (adjusted for inflation) within eight years. No district will receive less money than under the old system; most will receive more.

LCFF forum coming to Santa Ana

The California Endowment, a statewide health foundation, has scheduled a 12-city "School Success Express" bus tour and a series of community forums providing students, parents and community members the opportunity to meet with state and local education leaders to discuss how California's new Local Control Funding Formula can improve our schools.

California State PTA supports this tour and encourages you to attend. The tour will be at Century High School, 1401 S. Grand Avenue, Santa Ana, on Tuesday, October 29 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Events will begin with a short video explaining the new law, after which the floor will be opened to allow students, parents and community members to provide input to state decision-makers.

For more information go to www.calendow.org

Advocacy Roundtable

A bipartisan look at California's public education policy

Rick Simpson

Deputy Chief of Staff to Assembly Speaker John Pérez and
a Republican legislator, to be announced.

**Friday, November 15
10:30 a.m. to 12 noon**

Fountain Valley School District, Board Room
10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, 92708
(Please park at the back of the building, not in the front)

All PTA members are welcome to attend.

Questions? Please contact Fran Sdao at
roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org

State bills supported by CAPTA

Among the bills recently signed by Gov. Brown into law are several that were supported by California State PTA. These include:

- **AB 700 (Gomez)** requires high school classes in civics and American government to include instruction on voter registration and how to be an informed voter.
- **AB 422 (Nazarian)** allows information on health care exchanges and insurance options that are part of the Affordable Health Care Act to be included with school lunch information.

CAPTA also supported the following bills, which were passed by the legislature and sent to the governor:

- **SB 126 (Steinberg)** would ask that California Insurance Exchanges include behavioral and other supportive services for autistic and developmental spectrum disorders as part of the benefit package.
- **AB547 (Salas)** would add career exploration to the 21st Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens program (ASSET), to expose low-income teens to a variety of career options.

For more information on these bills and other legislation supported by California State PTA go to www.capta.org.