

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

January 2014

State Board of Education looks at revised LCFF regulations

A new set of draft regulations for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) will be considered by the State Board of Education at its January 16 meeting. The board will also consider a revised template for the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), the three-year plan that each school district must develop to show how it will use state funding.

When it is fully implemented (in eight years), LCFF will provide the same amount of per pupil funding to every school district in the state, with additional funding for students who are low-income, English learners or in foster care. School districts have more flexibility in how they spend those funds, but must account for the results.

This is the second draft of regulations to be considered by the State Board. The first version met with considerable criticism at the board's November meeting, as children's advocates—including California State PTA—said that districts would have too much flexibility in spending the money intended for high needs students.

Among the challenges posed by the new funding formula is how school districts calculate what services they should provide with the additional funding. Another question is whether programs offered district-wide or school-wide can be counted among the services provided to assist disadvantaged students.

The revised regulations are more specific than the first draft and include an example of how a district would allocate its funding. LCFF is being implemented over eight years, and funding is expected to increase in each of those years, up to 2007-08 levels. During the transition period, the services the district must provide would be prorated based on the funding for each year.

Examples of services include technology, facilities, student support programs and "other general infrastructure necessary to operate and deliver educational instruction and related services."

The draft regulations also state that districts with at least 55 percent high needs students and schools with at least 40 percent of these students may use supplemental dollars for overall programs. However, in these cases the LCAP would have to specify how the use of the funding would increase the achievement of targeted students.

Calendar of Events

Advocacy Roundtable

Friday, January 24, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Fountain Valley School District Board Room
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley
★Open to all PTA members.

California State PTA Legislative Conference

January 27 and 28, in Sacramento
For more information, go to www.capta.org

Districts and schools with smaller populations of disadvantaged students could also use additional funding for general purposes, but would have an additional burden of proof that this would benefit those students.

The law that established LCFF requires the State Board to approve new regulations by January 31. The California Department of Education considers the regulations on the January agenda to be emergency measures. The permanent rule-making process, with additional input from stakeholders, is expected to continue through the rest of the year.

CAPTA offers resources on LCFF

Information and helpful resources on LCFF and LCAP can be found on the California State PTA website.

Resources include double-sided fliers on LCFF and LCAP that you can download and share with parents, teachers and your school community. The fliers, available in English, Spanish and Chinese, offer explanations of the new funding and accountability system as well as suggestions for what parents and PTAs can do now.

There are also links to the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and other sources of information.

Go to www.capta.org and click on "LCFF and LCAP, Find out what it means to me."

Sacramento Safari 2014 March 17-18

Register today at www.fourthdistrictpta.org
Registration fees go up on January 24

Don't be left behind!

Pre-K programs for all four-year-olds is a state budget priority

This year the state budget process will be quite different from recent years. Instead of coping with billions of dollars in deficits, state officials are expecting a \$2.2 billion surplus by the end of the current fiscal year.

Leaders of both the State Senate and the Assembly have said that making pre-kindergarten programs available to all four-year-olds will be a priority for the budget. A proposal by the Assembly Democratic Caucus would open transitional kindergarten to any child who turns four by September 1.

Since 2010, California has gradually advanced the age required to enter kindergarten. This fall, children will have to be five by September 1 to enroll. Most school districts offer transitional kindergarten programs, but only about a quarter of the state's children will be eligible to participate in the fall, based on the current age restrictions.

California State PTA believes that all children ages three to six should have the opportunity to experience

learning that is developmentally appropriate. (*California State PTA Toolkit*, 4.5.21) Research shows that students who attend preschool are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to end up in jail or on welfare.

While some legislators support extending pre-K programs, others think it is not financially feasible and that it would place too much pressure on school districts that are already contending with a new school funding system and the implementation of Common Core State Standards. Education needs will also compete with other budget priorities, including water, prison overcrowding and the possible development of a rainy day fund.

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson is also asking for additional funding to continue implementing Common Core State Standards. This year's state budget included \$1.25 billion for that effort, but Torlakson said an additional \$1.5 billion should be allocated to allow school districts to provide teacher training and acquire the technology they need to implement the standards.

Development of the state budget begins this month

The start of a new year means the beginning of a new state budget cycle in Sacramento. The governor and legislature will have to agree on how best to allocate the tax revenues that the state has taken in.

The first step in the process is the development of a proposed budget, based on estimated revenues, which the Governor must submit to the Legislature by January 10. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) will issue its analysis of this proposal by the third week of February.

During the next months, Assembly and Senate budget committees will review the proposal and develop their own versions of the budget.

In mid-May, the governor will issue an updated "May Revise" version of the budget based on actual revenues received through taxes. The LAO will again present its analysis. A conference committee may meet to resolve the differences between the Assembly and Senate versions of the budget, and there may be continuing discussions between legislators and the Governor.

The state Constitution requires the legislators to complete the budget by June 15. If they miss the deadline, they permanently lose their pay and expenses for every day that the budget is not passed. If the Governor receives the budget on time, he must sign it by June 30.

Information about the budget and the budget process

can be found at the following sites:

- The California Department of Finance will publish the complete budget at www.dof.ca.gov
- LAO reports may be found at www.lao.ca.gov
- For information and commentary on how the proposed budget will impact education, go to www.edsource.org
- Additional information, including an easy-to-read guide to the budget process, is at the California Budget Project, www.cbpp.org

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Roundtable

Learning with Technology: iPads to Online Classes

Friday, January 24

9:30 to 11:30 am

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Ave, Fountain Valley

Open to all PTA members



*The Advocacy Communicator is published by the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team and is intended for distribution to local PTA units and councils. Maureen Christensen—President; Shereen Walter—Vice President, Advocacy; Gisela Meier—Editor.
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