

# Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

February 2014

## State Board approves temporary LCFF rules and LCAP template

Temporary regulations describing how school districts may spend state funding received through the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) were approved by the State Board of Education at its January meeting.

The regulations delineate how districts must spend the additional money they receive to assist students who are low-income, English learners or in foster care. (The regulations refer to these as “unduplicated pupils” since they are only counted once, even if they fall into more than one category.)

The board also approved a 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 to improve student achievement. The plan must be developed with input from parents, students, teachers and community members.

The rules were revised after a previous meeting where the state board heard from school officials who asked for as much flexibility as possible and from children’s advocates, who wanted assurances that money designated for needy students would actually benefit those students.

“Both sides acknowledged the final version was clearer and surprisingly close to consensus,” said John Fensterwald on the EdSource Today website.

The regulations were adopted in January to meet the legal deadline required by the law that set up LCFF. They take effect July 1, meaning each school district must complete an LCAP by that time.

The State Board of Education “will immediately begin a six-month process of adopting permanent regulations that will be informed by how school districts respond to the new rules,” said Fensterwald.

### Save the Date

Wednesday May 7, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Los Angeles Convention Center

#### **The New Accountability: Testing Students and Evaluating Schools in the Age of Common Core**

EdSource’s annual symposium, in partnership with the California State PTA Convention

## Sacramento Safari 2014 March 17-18

Register today at [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org)  
Registration Deadline: February 28

Don’t miss this opportunity to get in-depth information on public education issues from the people who are directly involved in the decision-making process. Then walk through the halls of our beautiful State Capitol and bring our PTA message directly to legislators (or their representatives) in their offices. It’s an exciting, eye-opening experience.

### Sacramento Safari Orientation

Friday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Fountain Valley School District Board Room  
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley  
**All Safari participants should attend.**

**Questions?** Please contact Kim Anderson at  
[sac-safari@fourthdistrictpta.org](mailto:sac-safari@fourthdistrictpta.org)

## Time for PTA members to take action

Every school district in California, without exception, must develop a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) by July 1.

The plan must describe how the district will spend its funding to meet the eight goals laid out by the Local Control Funding Formula, what actions will be taken and how high-needs students will be served.

The plan must also describe how parents, students, teachers and community members were involved in the planning process and how that participation contributed to the development of the LCAP.

PTA members should learn about the LCAP process in their school district and find out how they can participate.

For more information, go to:

- **California State PTA** [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)
- The **EdSource** Guide to Local Control Funding Formula [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org) (under Special Projects)
- **WestEd** offers a variety of videos on LCFF at <http://lcff.wested.org> (under LCFF Channel)

## Proposed 2013-14 state budget includes increases for education

Governor Brown has proposed a 2013-14 state budget that would increase Prop. 98 funding to K-12 schools and community colleges by \$11.8 billion. However, less than half of that would be new funding.

The governor wants to use \$6.2 billion to repay school districts and community colleges for the Prop. 98 funding that was deferred during the past several years. The K-12 share of that amount is \$5.6 billion. Since this is money that school districts have already borrowed and spent, the repayments will not increase local budgets.

The proposed state budget would designate \$4.7 billion to ongoing education costs, with almost all of it going for the Local Control Funding Formula, the state's new K-12 finance system. Average per-pupil funding would increase from \$7,936 this school year to \$8,724 next year, according to an analysis by the state's Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO).

The law that created LCFF called for an eight-year phase-in, with funding levels equal to the 2007-08 year at full implementation. The governor's proposed increases for next year would cover about 80 percent of the full implementation amount, according to the LAO. This funding level, however, would still leave California at the bottom in per pupil spending nationwide.

Brown's proposed budget includes \$46 million to pay for new Common Core tests.

In May the governor will issue an updated "May revise" version of the budget, based on actual income from state taxes. The LAO says there is a significant possibility that revenues will be higher than projected. Since California's tax income is so volatile, the governor is suggesting a conservative approach to spending and the creation of a reserve fund to carry the state through lean times.

To read the LAO's analysis, go to [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)

## It's an exciting time to be in Sacramento, say education experts

The cloud of gloom that hung over the State Capitol for the past several years has disappeared. Revenues are on the upswing and there isn't a budget cut in sight.

"It's an exciting time to be in Sacramento," was a comment heard from several speakers at the California State PTA Legislation Conference.

This year saw the highest increase in education funding in California history, said Ron Bennett, CEO of School Services. Other education experts talked with excitement about the recent changes in public education, including a new funding system, more local control, new state standards, new state tests, renewed interest in early childhood education and a new emphasis on assuring that schools have a safe and supportive environment.

Assembly Member Susan Bonilla said we have heard all the criticism; now it's time to change the conversation, bring in the solutions and take bold action for children.

However, restoring the high quality of California's schools will take a lot of work, and it won't be easy.

With the passage of the new funding formula and Prop. 30 (which temporarily raised taxes and prevented further cuts to education last year), there is a presumption that we have fixed our schools, said Rick Simpson, deputy chief of staff to the Assembly Speaker. "That is not the case," he said. "California is still profoundly under-invested in education."

If we spent the same percentage of personal income on education as Californians did when Ronald Reagan

was governor, schools would receive \$30 billion per year more than they do now, he said.

Senator Mark Leno pointed out there will be no cuts this year to education, "but other social services for children are still on life support."

The challenges are immense, but there is a renewed enthusiasm for education in the capitol, said California Deputy Superintendent of Education Deb Sigman.

## PTA-supported laws go into effect

As proposed legislation is introduced in Sacramento, the California State PTA Legislation Action Committee looks at bills affecting children and education and decides which ones to support, based on PTA's mission, as well as positions and resolutions approved by the membership at state conventions. In January, a number of bills supported by PTA went into effect. These include:

- AB166, requires next revision of textbooks to include instruction in financial literacy.
- AB700, requires government and civics classes to include information on voter education.
- SB126, ensures continued services to children with autism and autism spectrum disorder.
- AB422, allows information from state insurance exchanges to be distributed to families at school.

For more information, and to receive monthly updates on PTA advocacy in the state capitol, sign up for the *Sacramento Update* newsletter at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).