

District Local Control Accountability Plan Parent Committee Meeting
April 28, 2014
Written Questions / Responses & Comments

What will elementary schools get overall? For even 3A tells that story. Is the goal, at the end of the day, to give all schools the same services?

Response: Class size reduction for K-3 will be implemented at all elementary schools for 2014-15. By 2016-17 all elementary schools will have full-day kindergarten. Other services will be distributed on the basis of need with the higher need schools receiving services before the lower need ones.

There is a concern about lack of counselors, especially at schools like King, etc.

Response: Elementary schools that have Title I resources have counseling services. Other counseling services will be added through the LCAP in the higher need schools receiving services before lower need schools.

What is missing? Middle and High class size is missing – reduced class size. 40% is not a low %.

Response: Middle school and high school class sizes will be reduced through the LCAP with resources targeted for 2014-15 for high schools with greater than 75% unduplicated students. Additional resources are proposed to be added for the 2015-16 school year for high schools and middle schools with greater than 55% unduplicated. As additional resources become available through the LCAP, secondary class sizes will be reduced.

Kensington – what is their allocation? 2013-14? 2014-15?

Response: Individual school allocations have not been determined as part of the LCAP plan. That will occur in the detailed budget planning that will follow the LCAP adoption. Allocations through LCAP are based on need. Kensington will receive the same base funding as all of the schools.

Special Education ordering. How is that happening? What's the collaboration?

Response: All core instructional materials for special education and general education classes are ordered centrally. All supplemental materials needed for the unique needs of individual students are (1) embedded within the student's IEP and ordered by the special education department or (2) special education teacher can request supplemental instructional materials for their class through their Program Specialist. The requests are reviewed by the SELPA Director for approval and ordered centrally.

Initiative overload – how do we really control this?

Response: Overload is the new reality in California schools with the simultaneous implementation of the Common Core State Standards with initiatives in technology, linked learning, elementary report cards, professional development, next generation science standards, and many more. Staff are adapting to the changes through teamwork, supporting their instructional leadership and grade level teams and sharing responsibilities in schools. United Teachers of Richmond and the District adopted a memorandum of understanding that provides department chairs and grade level leads as well as technology leads to assist teachers.

Full service community schools. What support are we really offering here? Dover, Chavez?

Response: West County Full Services Community Schools is an integrated, comprehensive, coordinated initiative aimed at achieving educational success, well-being and self-efficacy for students, families and communities. The list of programs at each school site (the document is called 'Inventory of Community Based Programs') is located on the LCFF/LCAP section of our website: <http://www.wccusd.net/Page/4328>.

Do we have an organization chart? How to navigate through the system?

Response: The District has an organizational chart that is posted on the district web site. But more importantly, the District web page provides a listing of departments that give detailed information on programs and services in the district and whom to contact.

What are the programs specifically catered to African American students, parents? What will empower African American parents to engage folks?

Response: Programs targeted toward African American student include the following: Mental health providers at the secondary schools provide personal and group counseling for African-American students; enrichment programs are available to students, this includes Upward Bound, Trio Programs, Young Scholar Program; concurrent enrollment with community colleges and 4-year colleges; access to Advancement Placement, Link Learning, and offerings for high performing students; after-school programs; and admission into Holy Names University if the students has a 2.75 GPA in in the required 15 A- G classes. The Blackboard of West Contra Costa is an organization that supports African American students and parents. The District will offer the following programs catered to African American parents:

- *Parent University opportunities, specifically catered to our African American parents.*
- *Other parent workshops that focus on "Promoting a Mindset of Achievement with Our Children" with special outreach to African American parents.*
- *Extend our efforts (personal calls, letters, visits to churches, barbers, hairdressers, home visit program, ConnectEd messages, etc.) to engage our African American families to participate in these programs.*

Speaking as a community mentor and arts professional, I would urge you to consider what needs to be done to fully and equitably fund arts education across the district. I would like to especially advocate for access to dance education, which still lags behind the other arts in terms of access. Consider dance and drama too.

Response: The district will be expanding the arts programs as the LCAP is implemented. A comprehensive arts plan will be developed during the 2014-15 school year for implementation during the 2015-16 school year.

Wanted to mention that the term Parent University is a term for courses training parents about the school, but it is also for programs to teach parents about job readiness skills for parents themselves.

Response: For WCCUSD, Parent University can:

- *Educate families on grade level expectations (Preschool to College), how to monitor their child's education and social development at every grade and at important transitional stages and help with early planning and knowledge about postsecondary options.*
- *Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students.*
- *Develop parent leadership skills to support their children's education.*
- *Train parent leaders to work with other parents to effectively participate in school efforts.*
- *Educate parents on how to foster a positive educational environment for their children both at home and at school.*
- *Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions, and*
- *Educate families to understand their rights and responsibilities in the education system.*

Camp for all 6th graders, expanded sports programs.

Response: Expanded sports programs are part of the LCAP as that plan is phased in over the next seven years. There is consideration for adding a camp experience for all students but there is no specific plan at this time.