

Questions from the Saturday, February 1, 2020 Parent Institute

Here are the questions and our responses that have been returned to Leslie Reckler from the Parent Institute last week.

1. **Class Size Reduction Dollars TK -3**

In this chart from June 2019 WCCUSD Budget, please help us to understand the \$801 for class size reduction TK-3. Does this district/any district ever **not** get this money if it exceeds 24? Is it incentive money, or can it be taken away? Has it ever been taken away? If the WCCUSD is looking to increase class size TK-3, has anyone done a calculation of what would happen if we lost this?

2019-20 Targeted Per Pupil Funding ("fully" funded) – Estimates per Governor's May Revise					
Grade	Base	Grade Span Adj.	Supplemental	Concentration	Total
TK-3	\$7,702	\$801	\$1,246	\$777	\$10,526
4-6	\$7,818		\$1,146	\$715	\$9,678
7-8	\$8,050		\$1,180	\$736	\$9,966
9-12	\$9,329	\$243	\$1,403	\$875	\$11,850

It is estimated that the District will receive a total of \$289,677,155 in LCFF during the 2019-20 school year. The funding consists of Base in the amount of \$234,899,587 and Supplemental and Concentration funding in the amount of \$54,777,568.

The LCFF requirements regarding the Grade Span Adjustment for K-3 requires a school district to maintain the 24:1 ratio or have negotiated "alternative class size language" with their teachers association in order to receive the funding. Districts with the alternative language can receive the full grade span adjustment funding and maintain classes higher than the 24:1 ratio. WCCUSD receives approximately \$7.3 million in LCFF funds under the current allocation formula.

2. Are our budget dollars used for homeschooling/private school? Why and how much? (I am not sure if she means Non-Public Schools or true private for which a parent pays). She is especially curious about students that fall under special ed and LCAP funding.
- Teresa Kearns

Private and Homeschool students do not receive funds from the WCCUSD District. However, if those students chose to enroll in a WCCUSD school the district would then receive ADA funding for them at that time. The long-term goal is to provide programs and services that appeal to all types of students so there are options for them to see WCCUSD as a destination district for education in West County.

3. Fully explain ADA and absences and tardies and how money is allocated from the state. Do we get income for tardies? How do schools physically get money?

Districts are funded for each day that a student attends school, not by how many students are enrolled. When a student is ill and stays home the District does not receive funding for that student even though the student has an excused absence. A simple way to understand Education funding would be to use an example of 10,000 students being enrolled with an average attendance rate of 95%. In this example, the District would be funded for 9,500 students based upon the grade spans of those students. The funding comes through apportionments from the State of California. The District only gets funded for full day attendance, tardies do not change apportionment, but can impact attendance when greater than 30 minutes in respect to truancy laws.

4. There is \$20m in the budget for “discretionary costs” please explain this - teresa kearns.

When explaining the non-salary expenses we broke down the budget into unrestricted and restricted funds. The Restricted funds can only be used for specific purposes and altering those would not solve the budget situation. The unrestricted non-salary expenses are approximately \$33 million. Of that, approximately \$24-\$25 million is spent on fixed expenses such as utilities and insurance. The remaining funds are what we would describe as “discretionary” meaning that there is some level of choice on how they are spent. The proposed cuts of \$6 million are from that category and represent almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of those funds. These are deep cuts and will impact services, but were necessary in working with the bargaining units to demonstrate a willingness to make cuts in services and management prior to negotiated reductions impacting people and the classroom.

5. Please provide a breakdown of how local property taxes enter our school funding formula.

School Districts are funded per pupil based upon the grade span report for LCFF listed above. The local property taxes are the first funds collected and distributed to schools. If those funds are greater than the LCFF funding requirements the district is defined as basic aid and does not receive other state funding. If the local Property Taxes are less than the guarantee for LCFF based upon the grade spans then the State budget makes up the difference. It is a complex set of accounting requirements, but the simple answer for WCCUSD is that property taxes are not enough and therefore we receive a combination of property taxes and state funds to make up our LCFF allocations.

6. Please provide a full list of positions in the district. Not people, but positions.

The District employs over 3800 FTE in 292 different job classifications between Certificated (teachers, psychologists, speech, ect.) and Classified (Custodians, Office, Food Services, etc.). Each job classification has multiple individuals employed and is reported by FTE (Full Time Equivalent) since not all jobs are a full 7.5 hour work day. For example, if an employee worked a 4-hour day they would be a 0.53 FTE and if the District employees 10 of these positions it would be reported as just over 5 FTE.

7. Please fully explain the timing and cost of AASAT resolution. Does the County board still need to weigh in?

The Board of Education approved this resolution with the goal to implement for the upcoming school year. Staff will be working to make adjustments within the current

budgets to implement the services required. This work will take some time and thorough analysis and we must first complete the \$32 million in required reductions to then be able to make the appropriate additional adjustments as we move toward adopting the budget for 2020 - 2021 in June. The County Office of Education has been consulted regarding the resolution and has allowed the District the time to make the necessary adjustments with the expectation that we must first identify the reductions required before they weigh in. The February 12th Board meeting where the \$6 million in non-salary reductions and the \$2 million in site reductions are recommended for approval will be the starting point to addressing concerns with the County to allow the district to then complete negotiations for the remaining reductions and work on the AASAT resolution implementation plan after those requirements have been addressed.

ANSWERED

8. Cost of housing a prisoner in CA

a. It costs an average of about \$81,000 per year to incarcerate an inmate in prison in California. https://lao.ca.gov/policyareas/cj/6_cj_inmatecost

9. LAO resource for income tax versus property tax - Estelle

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sem7v8rXhr8&feature=emb_title

Ed 100

<https://ed100.org/lessons/whopays>