

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013, the California State Legislature changed more than 40 years of schools funding calculations known as the “Revenue Limit.” The change resulted in what is now known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The LCFF eliminated most “categorical” programs—restricted funds that could be used only for specific purposes. State funding now comes with a “base grant” that is the same for all school districts as well as supplemental and concentration funding based on the number of students who are English language learners, low income or foster youth. The LCFF will bring a significant increase in funding to the West Contra Unified School District (WCCUSD) over the next few years, but reduced enrollment and additional commitments placed on school districts by the state have tempered expectations.

The new funding that is generated through the LCFF is dedicated to improve the learning outcomes for three groups of students: English learners (EL), low-income (LI) students and foster youth (FY). In addition to the base grant, districts receive additional funding based on the unduplicated count of students who qualify in one of those three groups. For each student in one of those three categories, districts receive what is known in the LCFF as a “supplemental grant.” Districts that have more than 55 percent of their students in one of those three categories also receive a “concentration grant.”

The district serves about 29,145 students from pre-K to Grade 12, three-quarters of which are English language learners, low-income, and/or foster youth (Table 1).

Under the LCFF formula, the district receives supplemental and concentration grants for the unduplicated count of students in those groups. Under the LCFF, the district is scheduled to receive consistent increases in funding until the year 2020-21, when the state expects to fully fund the formula. For 2015-16, the district will receive a base grant of \$204 million (including \$4.7 million of transportation and Targeted Instructional Improvement dollars), plus \$36.3 million in supplemental and concentration grants (Table 2).

Funding generated through the supplemental and concentration grants must be spent to increase or improve services for students who are English learners, low-income or foster youth. Districts have flexibility in determining which services to provide and how they will be implemented. Districts can distribute those funds through:

- Targeted Student Services—one-to-one services that go only to EL, LI or FY students.
- Schoolwide programs—for schools with 100% eligible students or on programs that primarily benefit EL, LI, and FY students.
- Districtwide Programs—initiatives for all that have achievement gap closing benefits to EL, LI and FY students.

Many of the programs and instructional methodologies that have proven effective in improving outcomes for the targeted student groups have been demonstrated to benefit all students.

The LCFF brings new resources and new accountability measures to WCCUSD. In enacting the LCFF, the Legislature also approved the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), which mandates that districts describe how they intend to meet annual goals for all students and address state and local priorities. The accountability plan must align goals to the defined priorities, set targets for improvement based on data and link expenditures to the District’s goals.

In creating the LCAP requirement, the California legislature established priorities that must be included in the plan. These include:

- *Conditions of Learning*
 - Basic: Williams Settlement Criteria
 - Implementation of Common Core State Standards
 - Course Access
- *Pupil Outcomes*
 - Pupil Achievement
 - Other Student Outcomes
- * *Engagement*
 - Parent Involvement
 - Pupil Engagement
 - School Climate

The Legislature also established requirements for stakeholder engagement in the process, including specific review by parents. The district's stakeholder engagement is detailed in Section I of the LCAP. In order to comply with the parental involvement mandate and to ensure the plan aligns with the community's goals and priorities, the WCCUSD Board of Education in January 2014 approved the formation of the District Local Control Accountability Parent Committee. The purpose of the committee is to advise the Board on the Local Control Accountability Plan. The committee is composed of parents or guardians of elementary and secondary WCCUSD students representing each high school attendance area, representatives from stakeholder groups who are parents or guardians of District students and students from each high school.

In addition to the committee meetings and regular updates to the Board of Education, the District has hosted five town hall meetings that brought together members of the community to offer their feedback. Three meetings were held for the general community, one for partner organizations and one for students.

MAJOR CHANGES FOR 2015-2016

The LCAP has a different look due to significant changes mandated by the State Board of Education, encouraged by county officials and prompted by feedback received from District stakeholders. The changes include:

- * Modifications to the LCAP template that were mandated by the State Board of Education
- * Consolidation of the 14 goals to 5, which was encouraged by county office of education officials
- * Inclusion of only the supplemental and concentration grant funds, which was prompted by stakeholder feedback regarding the complexity of the document

It is hoped these changes give our stakeholders a more focused and less fractured look at the LCAP. Due to the changes ordered by the state Board of Education, the LCAP template now combines the Annual Measurable Outcomes with Actions, Services and Budget (Figure 1) and requires an annual review to compare plans with actual services, actions and expenditures (Figure 2).

The consolidation from 14 goals in 2014-2015 to five in 2015-2016 will provide more focus, improve the link between goals and services and allow the District and its stakeholders to better prioritize the work outlined in the LCAP.

The final change to the LCAP is the inclusion of only supplemental and concentration funds. The plan for 2014-2015 includes elements from some state and federal grants, capital improvement and general fund resources, which caused confusion for stakeholders and staff alike. With this change, it is hoped that stakeholders will have a better understanding of the funding that is covered by the LCAP and will be able to better identify the expenditures that should be prioritized.

2015-2016 GOALS AND EXPENDITURES *

GOAL 1

Improve student achievement for all students and accelerate student learning increases for ELL and low income students.

\$11,373,797

GOAL 2

Improve instructional practice through professional development and professional learning communities at schools and recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and principals.

\$6,181,890

GOAL 3

Increase parent and community engagement, involvement, and satisfaction.

\$1,777,289

GOAL 4

Improve student engagement and climate outcomes, and allocate services to ELL and LI students.

\$11,577,617

GOAL 5

Provide basic services to all students, including facilities, access to materials and technology.

\$1,081,590

* \$4,344,883 of Supplemental and Concentration funds remain to be allocated in 2015-16