

EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE

LCFF

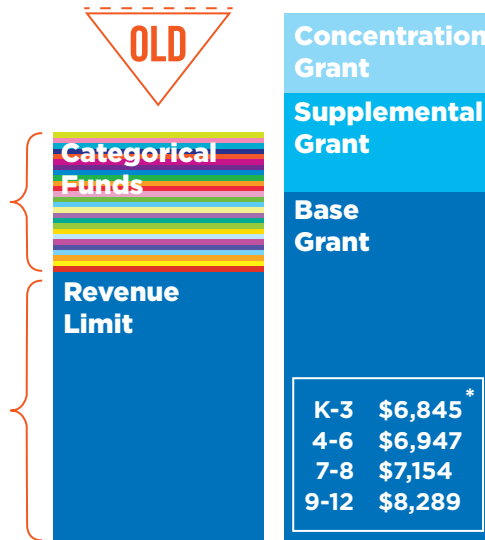
Local Control Funding Formula

The **LCFF** is a new funding formula that will increase school funding & direct more resources to California's highest-need students. Beginning in July 2014, districts will have to adopt written plans describing how they will use the funding to improve student outcomes in eight state priority areas. The LCFF increases local flexibility over the use of state funding for public schools, while requiring that districts meaningfully engage and seek input from parents, students, and other stakeholders in developing their written plans.

HOW IT WORKS

Districts used to receive money through **categorical funds** that could only be spent on specific programs. There were over 40 of these categorical programs, the majority of which have been eliminated under LCFF.

The rest of the money, called the **revenue limit**, was given out using a complicated and outdated formula. The calculation was different for each district, and did not take the needs of students into account. Districts could use these funds at their discretion.



** These are target figures that will be reached gradually over time.
The LCFF is expected to take 8 years to reach full implementation.*

BASE GRANT

The LCFF establishes uniform per-student base grants, with different rates for different grade spans. These differences are intended to recognize the higher costs of education at higher grade levels.

SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT

The LCFF acknowledges that English learner, low-income, and foster youth (EL/LI/FY) students have greater needs that require more resources to address. For each EL/LI/FY student, districts receive an **additional 20%** of the adjusted base rate per student.

CONCENTRATION GRANT

On top of the supplemental grant, districts that have a high proportion (over 55%) of EL/LI/FY students receive an **additional 50%** of the adjusted base rate per student for each student above 55% of enrollment.

No districts receive less money than they would have under the old system. **Most districts will receive more.**

WHY IT MATTERS

DISTRICTS GET MORE MONEY, & MORE FREEDOM TO SPEND IT.

The LCFF will add **\$2.1 billion** in funding for the 2013-14 school year. When fully implemented, the LCFF will increase California's education spending by **\$18 billion**. School districts are getting more money and a lot more freedom to spend it how they want. Though the old system's categorical programs were problematic, they did ensure that districts had to spend money on certain important priorities. Now spending decisions are largely left to the discretion of local districts.

DISTRICTS ARE DECIDING HOW TO USE THESE FUNDS RIGHT NOW

The LCFF requires districts to develop **Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs)** that establish annual goals for all students, describe what will be done to achieve these goals, and detail how funds will be spent to increase or improve services for EL/LI/FY students. These plans must be adopted by **July 2014**, and many districts have started the process for developing the plans. The coming months will be critical for public input to ensure that districts use funds in ways that help its highest-need students.

IT IS UP TO YOU TO MAKE SURE DISTRICTS SPEND RESPONSIBLY.

This publication was produced by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California for educational purposes only and it is not a substitute for legal advice.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Stay informed

The California Department of Education has a number of resources on its website:

- For general information on the LCFF, visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/>
- Take a look at the fact sheet available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/lcff13factsheet.asp>
- To receive updates regarding LCFF, send a “blank” email to join-LCFF-list@mlist.cde.ca.gov



Talk to your local school board

School boards are in the process of finalizing their budgets for this school year.

Ask administrators and board members:

How much do they estimate they will receive in supplemental and concentration funds? How are they planning to use these funds to increase or improve services for EL/LI/FY students, as required by the LCFF? How will these funds be divided between the school district and the individual school sites that have a lot of high-need students? How will the district coordinate with existing school site councils, English Learner Advisory Committees, and other parent and student advisory committees? How will they ensure that parents and students have a substantial and meaningful role in making decisions for the school district and for individual schools, as the law requires?

Learn and Advocate

The LCFF is intended to provide greater discretion to local communities to determine how to best meet the educational needs of their children. For this to work, parents, teachers, administrators, and board members need to be engaged in meaningful conversations about goals and strategies and allocations of resources to implement them. Stay informed and participate when your district begins developing its **Local Control and Accountability Plan** (LCAP).

State law requires districts to establish **Parent Advisory Committees** (PACs) that must include parents and guardians of EL/LI/FY students. If ELs make up at least 15% of a district's enrollment or if the district enrolls at least 50 students who are ELs, it must establish a **District English Learner Parent Advisory Committee** (DELAC).

Districts must:

- Present proposed LCAP or annual update to the PAC for review & comment, and respond in writing to any comments;
- Present proposed LCAP or annual update to the DELAC for review & comment, and respond in writing to any comments;
- Provide an opportunity for members of the public to submit written comments regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed in the LCAP or annual update;
- Hold a public hearing at a school board meeting to solicit comments and recommendations from the public regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed in the LCAP or annual update; and
- Adopt the LCAP or annual update in conjunction with the district's budget in a subsequent public meeting of the school board.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE ACLU

For further information and/or to receive updates from the ACLU, email **Sally Chung** at schung@aclu-sc.org.

This handout is current as of February 2014.

Northern CA: www.aclunc.org
Southern CA: www.aclusocal.org
San Diego: www.aclusandiego.org



ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
CALIFORNIA AFFILIATES

Questions? Email **Sally Chung** at schung@aclu-sc.org