

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Local Control Funding Formula?

The Local Control funding Formula was introduced as part of California's 2013-14 budget. It simplifies the state's school finance system, eliminating a complicated system of categorical programs that limited the way schools could spend much of their money. Instead, funding will now be based on a per-student base amount as well as additional money based on grade level and demographics.

When will the new formula start?

Implementation of the LCFF began in the 2013-14 school year. However, it will take several years before all provisions are fully implemented and districts and charter schools are fully funded to formula targets. Until then, some LCFF provisions and funding will be phased in gradually.

Moreover, a number of key decisions have yet to be made regarding the implementation of the new fiscal and academic accountability provisions.

How much will school districts get once the formula is fully funded?

Funding targets under the LCFF consist of:

- A base amount per student that include additional money to pay for reduced class sizes in kindergarten through third grade and career-technical education in high school
- Supplemental grants based on the number of high-need students, which includes those who are learning to speak English as a second language, qualify for free lunch or are foster youth.
- Additional concentration grants for school districts and charter schools where more than 55 percent of high-need students.
- An allowance for qualifying small schools; and
- Additional money based on the amounts a school district or charter school received in 2012–13 for the Targeted Instructional Improvement Block Grant and Home-to-School Transportation programs.

How much will school districts get as the formula is phased in?

The calculation of funding in 2013–14 and throughout the phase-in period is based on the difference between a school district's LCFF target amount as well as prior year funding, or the "funding floor." The amount is expected to gradually increase over the next several years until it reaches the target amount.

School districts may also continue to receive funding from categorical programs that weren't eliminated as a part of the LCFF, including child nutrition, state preschool and special education.

Will school districts be required to spend “Supplemental” and “concentration” funding on the students generating the added money?

Yes, state law requires all school districts and charter schools to increase or improve services for students in proportion to the number of high-need students who generated the additional funds.

Beginning with the 2014–15 school year, school districts and charter schools will be required to develop a plan identifying the use of all such funds, using a template to be adopted by the state Board of Education.

How will schools be accountable?

Districts must develop a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) that describes how they intend to meet annual goals for all pupils, with specific activities to address state and local priorities. The plans are intended to better align academic plans with spending plans. Parents and other stakeholder groups will be invited to participate in the development of the LCAP.

When will LCAPs be required?

The governing board of each school district shall adopt an LCAP on or before July 1, 2014. The law requires the State Board of Education to adopt the LCAP template for district use before March 31, 2014.

What does the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) measure?

The LCAP must include annual goals in eight specified areas.

1. Student Achievement.
2. Student Engagement.
3. Other Student Outcomes.
4. School Climate.
5. Parental Involvement.
6. Basic Services.
7. Implementation of Common Core.
8. Course Access.

How is Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) developed?

Districts must establish and prioritize the eight goals listed above and will be required to indicate the steps it will take to meet the annual goals. Districts must use an approved template and will solicit input from various stakeholders.

What are the different student subgroups included in the LCAP?

School districts that have more than 30 students who fit into one of the following subgroups—or 15 for foster youth—must set district goals for serving those students.

- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Filipino
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White
- Two or more races
- Socioeconomically disadvantaged students
- English Learners
- Students with disabilities
- Foster youth

What is the term of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)?

The LCAP is a three-year plan that has to be updated annually.

When will the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) be adopted?

Districts must adopt an LCAP at the same time it adopts a budget, which is prior to July 1 each year beginning in 2014.