

EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE

LCFF

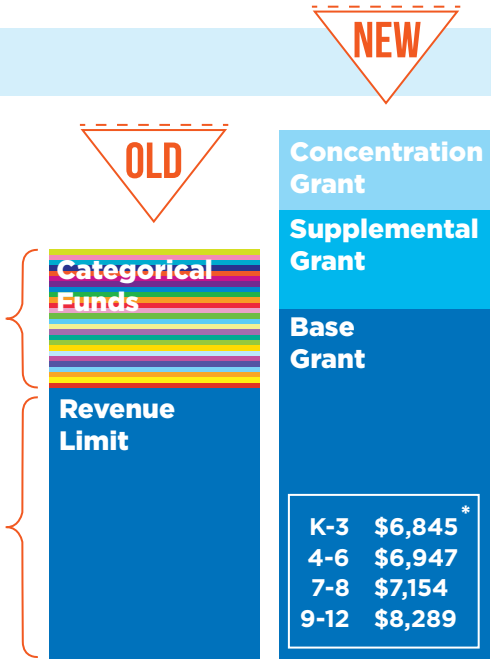
Local Control Funding Formula

The **LCFF** is a new funding formula that will increase school funding & direct more resources to California's highest-need students. It leaves significant spending decisions to local discretion, but does not require districts or counties to adopt formal plans for these funds until 2014. **It is up to parents and students to make sure LCFF funds are used responsibly this year.**

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The rest of the money, called the **revenue limit**, was given out using a complicated and outdated formula.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.



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.

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

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

By **January 31, 2014**, the State Board of Education must set the rules regarding how LCFF funds can be spent. 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 do not have to be adopted until **July 2014**. This means that until then, a district could decide to use its money in ways that do not help its highest-need students.

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

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?

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)**. Districts are required to seek input from school employees, parents, and students.

The LCFF requires that districts establish **Parent Advisory Committees (PACs)** to advise school boards and superintendents on LCFF implementation. They must include parents and guardians EL/LI/FY students. Furthermore, if English learners make up at least 15% of a district's enrollment or the school district enrolls at least 50 students who are English learners, it must establish a **District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)**.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE ACLU

The ACLU of California will be hosting a series of listening sessions throughout the state to share information and hear your thoughts and concerns about the LCFF.

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

This handout is current as of October 2013.

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



ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
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Questions? Email **Sally Chung** at schung@aclu-sc.org