



School Money: the Local Control Funding Formula



The State of California recently passed a new way of funding public schools called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Here are some basic facts about the LCFF and SFUSD.

Q: Is SFUSD getting more money?

Yes, although some of the funding in the first few years pays back what the state withheld from districts during the recession. It will take eight years to build up to full funding from the LCFF.

Q: Will funding go to serve students who need the most help to succeed in school?

Yes, even more. With the LCFF SFUSD will start to receive more funds specifically to support services for low-income, English-learning students, and foster youth. Under LCFF, this extra funding will come from Supplemental and Concentration grants.

As pioneers in site-based budgeting, SFUSD has been allocating more funds to schools that serve English learners and low-income students for over a decade by using a system called the Weighted Student Funding (WSF) formula. With the LCFF, we will continue to designate more resources for services and programs that serve our highest-need students.

Q: Will my child's school get more money?

Yes, eventually all schools will receive more funds, and schools with high concentrations of low-income, English-learning, and foster youth will see the greatest increase. We are still recovering from years of funding cuts, so it may take a few years before we can begin to see the positive impact of LCFF.

Q: Will parents help decide how money is spent?

Yes! Gathering input on how revenues are spent is something SFUSD has been doing for years, and we look forward to strengthening our feedback channels even more. The state mandates that districts implement a plan that incorporates community input on how the Supplemental and Concentration grants are spent in particular. Below are examples of some existing processes that will help inform school-level and district-wide budget priorities.

- Elected parent-community-staff School Site Councils (SSCs) help establish their school site's budget priorities every year.

- The SF Board of Education (BOE) approves the annual budget and holds public meetings to discuss the budget in detail throughout the year.
- During the budgeting cycle SFUSD staff attend community meetings and hold open office hours to get input and answer questions.
- SFUSD managers meet regularly with various elected representatives from labor groups, including the teachers union and administrators union, to discuss budget priorities as well as other topics.

Q: How will we know if our budget decisions improve student achievement?

SFUSD already has several ways to measure student progress, and we report results regularly. The LCFF has established a new set of accountability requirements and beginning in July 2014, school districts will be required to submit a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). The exact details of what should be in each district’s LCAP has not been finalized by the State Board of Education.

Q: What is the timeline for adopting the District budget for the 2014-2015 school year?

- ➔ **JANUARY 2014**
The State Board of Education (SBE) adopts spending regulations
The governor announces projected district revenue allocations
- ➔ **FEBRUARY – JUNE 2014**
School and district budget planning meetings
- ➔ **MARCH 2014**
SBE finalizes LCAP template
School Planning Community Summit
- ➔ **JULY 1, 2014**
District adopts budget and LCAP with 3-year plan
- ➔ **2021**
Full funding of LCFF, subject to fluctuations in state revenue

Q: Where can I learn more?

EdSource <http://edsources.org/wp-content/publications/10-questions.pdf>

Legislative Analyst’s Office <http://www.lao.ca.gov/sections/education/ed-budget/Overview-LCFF-Districts.pdf>