

## Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), enacted through the 2013-14 state budget, describes the system for calculating funding for public schools in California. Each school district in the state receives a “base grant” to be utilized for all K-12 public school students based on the size of the student population in the district. Each district may also receive additional “supplemental” and “concentration” grants based on the number of students in the district who qualify as low-income, English language learners, or foster youth. LCFF finances almost every service provided by public schools, including teacher salaries, classroom materials, and facilities. LCFF dollars can also be used for school-based mental health programs and staff, including social workers, counselors, nurses, and psychologists.

LCFF allows school districts significant latitude in how funds are spent. However, this greater flexibility comes with the requirement that school districts submit a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and annual updates to their county office of education. The LCAP must describe a three-year plan for how the funds received by the district will be spent. Specifically, district LCAPs must address annual goals and related actions and expenditures regarding how the district will address eight state priorities, including student achievement, student engagement, and school climate. The process for designing the LCAP and making decisions about how funds will be spent must include rigorous stakeholder input from a variety of community members. The LCAP itself must also include a description of that stakeholder input process, including who was consulted and what impact consultation had on the creation of the document.

Within each of the eight state priorities, LCAPs must identify annual goals for all students and specific student subgroups, including the LCFF targeted populations of low-income, English language learners, and foster youth, although districts may set the same goals for all students and for student subgroups. LCAPs also must describe how supplemental and concentration grant funds will increase or improve services for the LCFF targeted populations for whom the funds were received.

School districts should utilize the additional supplemental and concentration grants funding to provide specific supports and services for the LCFF targeted students, including foster youth. For the purposes of LCFF, the California Education Code defines “foster youth” as a child or youth who is the subject of a dependency petition, regardless of whether that child has been removed from the home; a child or youth who is the subject of a delinquency petition and who has been removed from the home and placed in foster care; or a non-minor dependent between the ages of 18 and 21 who is enrolled in high school and participating in a transitional living case plan.<sup>1</sup>

While some juvenile justice-involved youth—specifically those in [out-of-home placement](#)—are covered by this definition, there is no requirement that LCAPs address juvenile justice youth as a distinct subgroup. Nonetheless, some LCAPs do include details focused on juvenile justice youth, particularly for county offices of education, which often serve students who are on probation or enrolled in juvenile court schools. Decisions related to how districts spend LCFF dollars can be significantly influenced by stakeholder input. As a

result, in districts where stakeholders within the juvenile justice community participate heavily in the LCAP stakeholder engagement process, more focus may be placed on youth in the juvenile justice system who fit within the foster youth category.

### Oakland Unified School District (USD)

Oakland USD's 2016-17 LCAP includes funds for the employment of both a coordinator and case manager to facilitate re-entry and support transitioning youth from the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center back into Oakland USD schools. These two positions are funded at least in part by LCFE supplemental and concentration grant dollars.

### Monterey County Office of Education

The Monterey County Office of Education's 2015-16 LCAP specifically earmarks \$164,000 annually in LCFE base funds to "partner with the Monterey County Probation Department to provide additional support for students on Penal Code 601 or 602 Probation Status."

Juvenile justice professionals participated in the LCAP process in Monterey and appeared to have a direct impact on the LCAP. In describing stakeholder input into the 2015-16 LCAP, the Monterey County Office of Education refers to meetings with probation and a juvenile court judge. The LCAP indicates that the juvenile court judge, in consultation with incarcerated youth, recommended expanded online and blended learning and community college concurrent enrollment opportunities for incarcerated youth. This input appears to have helped lead to a commitment of over \$165,000 in base grant funds, a significant increase from the prior year, toward supporting these programs.

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Education, *LCFF Frequently Asked Questions*, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/lcfffaq.asp#FOSTER>.