

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

DECEMBER 2021

LAO predicts extraordinary level of education funding

The November *Advocacy Communicator* reported on concerns about a potential fiscal cliff for California schools in coming years when one-time federal funding runs out and school enrollment drops.

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office paints a much rosier picture in a [report](#) released on November 17. The projected growth in education funding over the next several years is "extraordinary," according to the report's author Ken Kappahn.

By 2022-23, schools and community colleges can expect Prop. 98 funding that is \$20 billion higher than the current school year, with 88 percent of that funding going to K-12 education.

About half of that increase is due to the fact that the governor and legislature underestimated tax revenues for the current fiscal year by about \$10 billion. That amount can now be kicked over to the next year. Despite the ongoing pandemic, California's economy continues to grow and tax revenues have increased by 60 percent since 2019, leading to an anticipated state surplus of \$31 billion by 2022-23.

Prop. 98, passed by voters in 1988, requires the state to spend a certain percentage of its budget on K-12 schools and community colleges. The amount allocated each year is determined by one of three 'tests' (formulas), which are based on tax revenues, school attendance and per capita personal income. The LAO expects Test 1,

which allocates 40 percent of the state budget to K-12 schools and community colleges, to be in effect through the 2025-26 fiscal year. The Prop. 98 guarantee will increase by \$18.6 billion.

The LAO predicts there will be 170,000 fewer K-12 students by 2025-26, due to declines in the school age population. This will be offset by the addition of 230,000 children in the state's new universal Transitional Kindergarten program and the return of about 140,000 students who failed to attend school during the pandemic lockdown. By 2025-26, student numbers will be slightly higher than they were before the pandemic, the LAO estimates.

Individual school districts may experience drops in funding based on attendance, but the state must still allocate the Prop.98 funding and could use it to increase spending through the Local Control Funding Formula.

Some of the funding will have to go to contributions to the state pension system and cost of living increases, but plenty will remain for schools. In addition, there is \$23 billion in federal pandemic-related money that schools must spend by September 2024. So far, only 15 percent of that has been used.

What to do with all that extra money? The LAO recommends that the legislature build upon existing initiatives, improve services in targeted ways and/or address historical funding disparities. Specifically, the LAO suggests:

- Allocating more money to a new state effort to provide additional education programs before and after school and during the summer.
- Providing more funding per student through the Local Control Funding Formula.
- Upgrading special education programs.

Annual report on OC children is out



The 27th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County was released last month by the Orange County Social Services Agency.

The report covers the areas of good health, economic well-being, educational achievement and safe homes and communities. Much of the information is broken down by city or school district.

There is also a special report on the impact of Covid-19 on our children.

You can read the report [here](#).

ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE

California State PTA Legislation Conference in Sacramento

January 24 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
January 25 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information and registration [here](#).

Improvements suggested for Local Control Funding Formula

The Local Control Funding Formula, California's 8-year-old system for allocating education funding among school districts, has led to improved test scores and graduation rates, especially in districts that receive the most funding. LCFF has also led to greater equity in how these funds are distributed.

However, only 55 cents of every dollar of additional funding for high-needs students is spent at the school that generates the funding. Many districts with large numbers of high-needs students, but not enough to qualify for a concentration grant, get considerably less funding.

These are some of the findings of a recent [report](#) by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California.

The report also found that high-needs schools generally rely on less-experienced staff, a practice that pre-dates LCFF. Additional funding and incentives should be provided to allow districts to hire and retain qualified staff in these schools.

The report makes the following recommendations to improve LCFF:

- Improve tracking and transparency of funding for high-needs students, down to the school site level.
- Provide concentration grants based on individual school site needs, rather than district-wide. (However, policymakers need to ensure that this will

CAPTA briefings and office hours

Join the California State PTA Legislation Team for an informational briefing, followed by an opportunity to speak with Legislation Team members in small group settings to ask questions and discuss effective ways to advocate at your school, district, and greater community, during office hour.

The briefing and office hour will take place on a select Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. The dates are:

- December 14
- January 18
- February 15
- March 15
- April 19
- May 24

To register to join the monthly advocacy briefing and office hour zoom meetings [click here](#).

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of the November 16 virtual briefing.

Save the Date
Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum
 Friday, January 21
 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

not encourage districts to segregate schools to increase funding levels.)

- Increase supplemental grants and/or lower the threshold for concentration grants to provide more funding for high needs students across the state.

What is LCFF?

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is a simplified funding system established in 2013. Under LCFF, every school district receives a per-pupil **base grant**, with differing amounts for the grade levels of the students served. Districts receive **supplemental grants** for each student who is an English learner, low-income or in foster care. (Children in more than one category are counted once.) Districts with more than 55 percent of students in those at-risk categories receive an additional **concentration grant** amount for each student over the 55 percent threshold.

School districts decide how to spend the funding, but they must describe their plans by developing Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) with input from staff, parents and the community.

Almost 90 percent of state funding for schools comes through LCFF. The other 10 percent is funding that can only be used for specific purposes such as special education, after-school programs, home-to-school transportation and school lunches.

CAPTA statement on vaccine mandates

California State PTA issued the following statement in response to Gov. Newsom's announcement of a new vaccination mandate for students and school employees, which is expected to go into effect by July 1, 2022.

"California State PTA supports the use of vaccines to protect the health and safety of children and families across California. The state of California has required student vaccinations in public schools for years and PTA has long-held positions on vaccine requirements to protect our most vulnerable children.

"Vaccination is an important tool to ensure our schools remain open for in-person instruction while protecting the health and safety of our students, staff, and entire communities.

"Throughout the pandemic, California State PTA has been working with state leaders including the California Surgeon General, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the California Education Coalition, and various equity groups to advocate for children and families – and we will continue to do so. We look forward to working with parents and families, the governor, and policymakers to ensure students and families are involved in the rollout of this new regulation."