



July 24, 2013

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

As organizations committed to strengthening our public school system to provide all children a meaningful opportunity to learn, we are excited by the promise of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and eager to ensure its foundational principles are reflected in school spending plans starting in 2013-14. Accordingly, in a spirit of common cause, we are writing to highlight a couple of points that will be critical to consider during budget deliberations in the coming weeks.

The LCFF imperative is clear: students with greater needs deserve and require additional support. While the State Board of Education is charged with working out many of the regulatory details with an eye to 2014-15, services for English Learners, low-income and foster youth will have to be increased or improved in proportion to the increase in funds generated by these students through the LCFF. (California Education Code Section 42238.07.) Furthermore, Local Control and Accountability Plans will need to detail how expenditures in each fiscal year implement specific actions and strategies designed to meet annual goals for these students, among others.

We believe identifying the current level of expenditures already being devoted to support services for these students and investing new LCFF funds in increased and improved services consistent with the new state priorities in law is critical to a successful transition. Taking this approach to 2013-14 budget decisions will also help avoid significant challenges that may arise in 2014-15 and beyond if diffuse expenditures and funding commitments for future years are made without considering alignment with the forthcoming implementing regulations and the intent of the LCFF. As Governor Brown declared in his State of the State speech in January, “Equal treatment for children in unequal situations is not justice.”

The investment decisions local boards make in 2013-14 will be the first significant test of local decision-making under the LCFF. Our hope is that the final adopted budgets will demonstrate that school officials prioritize the needs of disadvantaged children even in a tough budget environment with lots of competing pressures. We will be collectively monitoring the results and looking forward to participating in the robust local discussions about how to improve educational outcomes for all of our children.

Respectfully,

ACLU of California
Advancement Project
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network
Black Organizing Project
California Association for Bilingual Education
Californians for Justice
Californians Together
California State PTA
Coalition of Mexican American Organizations
Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth
CRLA Foundation
EdVoice
Education Trust-West
Fathers and Families of San Joaquin
Great Oakland Public Schools Leadership Center
GSA Network
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Center for Youth Law
Oakland Community Organizations
Parent Institute for Quality Education
PICO California
Public Advocates Inc.
Public Counsel
San Diego Organizing Project
UPforEd - San Diego United Parents for Education