

LCFF: Creating a more rational, open and equitable school finance system



Public Advocates has been a strong and consistent advocate for fundamental reform of California's school finance system since our lead role in *Serrano v. Priest* in the 1970's. We've advocated for weighting funding for our schools based on student needs since 2002.

Enacted in 2013, California's new school funding law, dubbed the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), makes a twofold promise. First, low-income students, English learners and foster youth will have more resources available to meet their educational needs. Second, local communities across the state will have a greater role in shaping local spending decisions.

When Governor Jerry Brown proposed LCFF in 2012, Public Advocates and our community partners — representing more than half a million families — were early and vocal supporters. Our knowledge of school finance and visible support for LCFF provided the proposal with instant legitimacy. Our frequent presence in Sacramento together with finance-fluent youth and parents enabled us to help shape its development as an instrument of both equity and engagement.

We worked closely with the administration and the legislature to ensure that disadvantaged students were the primary beneficiaries of the additional funding they generated, to make parent and community engagement a priority for all schools, and to increase the transparency required for school spending.

During implementation, Public Advocates has been a key leader, drafter and negotiator in the struggle to ensure that State Board regulations require districts to spend the weighted funding on increasing or improving services for our highest need students. We were instrumental in the campaign that convinced the Board to reject its first set of proposed regulations and in helping to craft the ultimate regulatory solution.

We continue to work every day to make the promise of LCFF real.

WHO LCFF BENEFITS

- 60,000 foster children
- 1.4 million English learners
- 3.7 million low-income students
- 6.2 million engaged students and families

RIGHT PHOTO: JOHN DALTON

www.publicadvocates.org

131 Steuart Street | Suite 300 | San Francisco CA 94105

info@publicadvocates.org | (415) 431-7430

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