



Best Practices in Local Control Funding Formula Implementation

Developing a Culture of Authentic Parent Engagement and Shared Decision Making

The implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) creates an unprecedented opportunity for school districts to authentically engage a broad and diverse group of students, parents and community members in the important work of creating a shared vision and plan for student success. With the implementation of LCFF, districts have the opportunity to invite and empower these stakeholders to be authentic partners – to tap into their expertise, wisdom, and vision to craft Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) that speak to the unique strengths and needs of each community and to articulate strategies and practices that are broadly and deeply supported.

As groups working directly with students, parents and community partners around the state, we believe the best practices detailed below will result in a more authentic LCFF implementation process. These best practices will engender the level of ongoing engagement needed to ensure that all students will be successful – fulfilling the promise of this historic reform.

Issue a Broad Invitation for Participation

Districts should go broad and deep in their outreach to stakeholders, paying particular attention to reaching out to parents/guardians of high-need students who receive additional resources under LCFF -- low-income students, English learners, and foster youth -- and to those who historically have not been engaged as partners. Best practices include:

- **Make your planning process and timelines public.** Publicize your local process at on your district web site and every school site, through principals, school site councils, English Language Advisory Councils, and parent groups. The more people who are informed about the LCFF/LCAP process, the more who will engage. Make sure to include information about the timeline and opportunities to provide input.
- **Clarify and publicize standards for evaluating and incorporating input into the LCAP.** Build trust in the LCAP development process by describing: how the plan will be developed, who will be involved in the drafting and how they were selected, and the process for reviewing and incorporating stakeholder input into the draft and final LCAP.
- **Tap into existing community networks.** Partner with community groups, congregations, and other local parent organizations with to both design the listening sessions and to "get the word out" about LCFF and community events.
- **Maximize opportunities for participation.** Hold listening sessions at school sites throughout the district. Make sure these events are on days and at times convenient for working parents. Provide childcare and refreshments to increase participation.
- **Ensure language accessibility.** Translate all written materials into the primary languages spoken by parents and provide simultaneous professional translation during all events.
- **Supplement in-person input with survey tools.** Use surveys or other outreach tools to supplement community conversations – not instead of them.

Convene Diverse and Empowered Parent Advisory Councils

The LCFF statute calls for a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to consult with the district on LCAP development. Although districts have the flexibility to use an existing structure, LCFF implementation provides an opportunity to create new vehicles for parent leadership and to benefit from the insight of new parents and guardians. Best practices include:

- **Convene a representative Parent Advisory Council.** Bring together a PAC that accurately reflects your community and that includes significant representation of the parents and guardians of students who receive additional resources under LCFF – low-income students, English learners, and foster youth. The process for selecting members of the PAC should be clearly described and easily understood.
- **Empower the PAC through access to critical information.** Empower members of the PAC and other advisory groups to be full and authentic partners in the process by providing them with the information necessary to assess student need and the effectiveness of current and proposed strategies. Members should have access to disaggregated student data in such critical areas as achievement, graduation rates, and disciplinary measures, as well as expenditure data by program, student group, and school site. Work with your community and youth to identify unique assets that can support improving student outcomes.
- **Partner with CBO's to train PAC members.** Build parent capacity to be school and district leaders by partnering with respected parent/community groups to provide parents with the training necessary to ensure they fully understand the LCFF statute, student data and financial information, effective strategies and programs to support high-need students, the process for creating and monitoring LCAP development, and strategies for being a full and powerful participant in the advisory committee.
- **Ensure language accessibility of information and materials.** Translate all written materials into the primary languages spoken by parents and provide simultaneous professional translation during all events.



Foster a culture of partnership and continuous engagement

To effectively engage stakeholder takes time, an opportunity to build relationships, and a direct connection to the decision-making process. To build trust within the community and shared ownership, develop an intentional year-round engagement strategy that aligns with key local budget development milestones and that intentionally and transparently links academic priorities to budget decisions. Best practices include:

- **Institute opportunities for continuous improvement and feedback.** Solicit feedback from parents and parent/community groups after each LCFF forum or community meeting and throughout the implementation process on what's working and areas for improvement.
- **Equip site and district administrators to be collaborative leaders.** Train site and district administrators in effective strategies for both shared decision-making and outreach to diverse parent populations.
- **Provide ongoing training in partnership with local organizations.** Partner with parent and community-based organizations to develop and implement ongoing leadership development

training for parents participating in school and district committees, such as school site councils, ELACs and DELACs

- **Organize and institute regular updates.** Organize, in partnership with parent/community groups, regular meetings to discuss progress on the eight LCAP priority areas.
- **Ensure language accessibility of information and materials.** Translate all written materials into the primary languages spoken by parents and provide simultaneous professional translation during all events.

Although the principles addressed in this document apply generally to efforts to promote authentic engagement of all stakeholders, other approaches may be necessary to ensure districts are following best practices for engaging specific groups. For example, other organizations are developing a separate document with recommended best practices for engaging students in developing the LCAP, which is a separate requirement and also essential to success of LCFF implementation.



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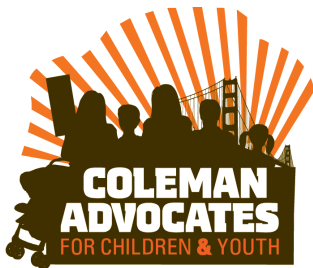


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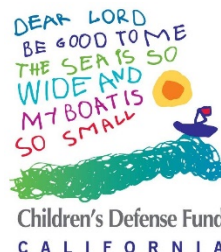
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