

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

FEBRUARY 2025

K-12 education funding is maintained in proposed budget

With state tax revenues going up, thanks to a stock market rally that increased income for some Californians, Gov. Newsom has proposed a state budget that maintains funding for K-12 schools and community colleges.

However, he also warned that things could change due to potential global financial instability, volatility in the stock market, and possible conflicts with President Trump, which could impact federal funding.

Under the governor's initial proposal, a 2.43 percent cost-of-living adjustment would give school districts a \$2.5 billion increase in funding. This money would be distributed through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and districts could spend it according to local priorities. Per-pupil funding from Proposition 98 would rise to \$18,918 and to \$24,764 per pupil, including federal funding and other state money, such as pension contributions for teachers and other school employees, according to an article at EdSource.

In addition to the funding provided through LCFF, the budget would allocate money for specific state priorities, including:

- \$2.4 billion to fully implement universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK), allowing 60,000 more children to enroll. The student-to-adult ratio would be lowered from 12:1 to 10:1 with an additional \$1.5 billion.
- \$435 million for full implementation of programs before and after school and during the summer at TK-6 schools with at least 55 percent of students who are low-income, English learners or foster youth.
- \$1.8 billion for career education.
- More than \$2.3 billion for literacy programs, including \$1.8 billion for teacher training and \$40 million to screen all students in kindergarten through 2nd grade

for learning challenges such as dyslexia.

- \$250 million to recruit and support new teachers.
- \$106.3 million to fully fund the universal school meals program.

Funding is also designated to upgrade school kitchens, expand a high-speed network in schools, and provide homeless education. (For a complete list of programs and more information about the budget, see this [blog](#) at Ed100.)

During the next several months, legislators will be looking at the proposed budget and discussing possible changes. The governor will issue a revised budget proposal in May, when there is more information about the state's income from tax revenues.

How LCFF money is distributed

This year, school districts could receive an additional \$2.5 billion in state funding through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) to spend however they choose. Since there are almost 1,000 school districts in the state, each of our districts could expect to get about \$2.5 million. Right?

Wrong. That's not how LCFF works.

Under LCFF, every school district receives a per-pupil **base grant**, with differing amounts for the grade levels of the students served. Because LCFF is designed to provide more support to schools that serve high needs children, districts receive **supplemental grants** for each student who is an English learner, homeless, 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.

In 2023-24, the state added an **equity multiplier**, which provides additional funding to schools where more than 70 percent of the students are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Charter schools and county offices of education also receive a share of LCFF funding.

School districts decide how to spend LCFF funding, but they must describe their plans by developing Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) with input from parents, staff, students and the community. PTA members should be involved in this process!

Learn more about LCFF in this Ed100 [lesson](#).

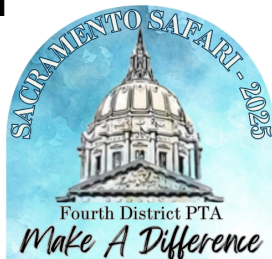
Last chance! Don't be left behind!

Sacramento Safari

February 24 and 25

**Registration closes
February 7**

Full information and
registration at
Fourthdistrictpta.org



Advocating with your local school district board of trustees

Local school boards often get little attention, even though they are powerful policy makers who represent the community and make decisions about millions of tax dollars. In many communities, the school district is one of the largest employers. Yet only 10 percent of voters make it to the end of the ballot and vote for school board members. Many parents don't know who their school board members are.

Briana Mullen, the guest speaker at Fourth District PTA's Advocacy Forum in January, would like to change that. She is the co-founder and executive director of Education Justice Academy, a non-profit that creates high quality school board governance leadership by recruiting local leaders and preparing them to lead school systems.

Here is some of her advice:



Advocating for arts education

In 2022, California voters approved Prop. 98, which provides funding for arts programs in schools. This funding is separate from Prop. 98 and the Local Control Funding Formula, and it cannot be used to replace money that a district is already spending on arts education.

Unlike most other education funding, Prop. 28 money goes directly to schools, not districts. Schools and communities they serve decide how to spend the money. PTA advocates should be actively involved in this process.

[CreateCA.org](https://www.createca.org) offers a treasure trove of information to help you do just that. You will find:

- Information on Prop. 28 requirements
- Data showing the importance of arts education
- Examples of successful arts programs
- How to work with your school board to include arts education in your district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)
- Much more!

You can also find information and resources at the California State PTA arts [page](#).

- Attend more than one school board meeting. Observe board discussions and find out what the board members care about.
- Community engagement is not a one-time event. It's an ongoing process. Develop relationships with board members by meeting with them individually or in small groups and finding commonalities. The right to a free public education should be the one thing everyone can commit to.
- School boards are required to conform to the Brown Act, a California law that requires transparency in government action. (Read an Ed100 lesson on the Brown Act [here](#).)
- Meeting agendas must be posted 72 hours before a regular meeting. By law, board members can discuss and take action only on items on the agenda. This can be confusing if you come to a meeting to speak on a non-agenda item and get no response from the board. It's a good idea to follow up with an email.
- Some school districts allow members of the public to add agenda items. Check section 9000 of the board bylaws, which should be posted on your district's website.
- If you plan to speak at a board meeting, check how long speaking times are for members of the public. Make sure your comments fit within the time limit. Tell a personal story that relates to the topic.
- A school board meeting is not a good place for a dialogue between the board and the public. You can ask for a town hall meeting or forum on a particular subject. This can also be more convenient for more parent participation.

Special election in 36th Senate District

A special election will be held in the 36th Senate District on February 25 to replace Janet Nguyen, who was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in the November General Election. The district includes several cities in central Orange County as well as a section of Los Angeles County.

The following candidates are running for the senate seat:

- John Briscoe, Business Owner/Broker
- Julie Diep, Disability Rights Advocate
- Jimmy D. Pham, Attorney/Business Owner
- Tony Strickland, Huntington Beach Councilman/Businessman

If no candidate receives 50 percent or more of the votes in that election, the top two vote getters, regardless of party, will run in an election on April 29.