What is California’s New Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)?

LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) was established by AB 97, which Governor Brown signed into law on July 1, 2013. LCFF is California’s new way to provide funding to schools. It increases funding for schools and provides additional resources for students with greater needs (low-income, English learners, and foster youth). Further, it provides local communities with more decision-making into how education dollars are spent. LCFF also includes a greater opportunity for districts to align budgeting with district goals.

For more information on LCFF see the California School Boards Association toolkit¹, The California Endowment’s LCFF Resource and Idea Center², and LCFF resources for school health advocates from the California School-Based Health Alliance³.

How is Health Coverage for Students Related to LCFF?

In defining how schools can use these funds, LCFF takes a broad view of student success by expecting districts to develop local plans that address eight priority areas that are key to student achievement. Health coverage impacts several of the eight priority areas that school districts must address in their Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) in order to receive LCFF funds:

- Student engagement (including attendance)
- School climate (including suspensions and expulsions)
- Parent involvement
- Other student outcomes

Health coverage can improve outcomes in all of these areas by helping ensure students receive the health and mental health care they need.

³California School-Based Health Alliance, Local Control Funding Formula, http://bit.ly/1daS09x
⁵Ibid.
⁶Ibid.
How Can LCFF Be Used to Help Students Get Covered?

In districts with substantial numbers of low-income students, English learners, and foster youth, LCFF will provide more funding than schools previously received; and these amounts will increase over the eight-year implementation timeline.

These districts are also likely to have higher rates of students who are uninsured. Since healthy kids promote LCFF’s positive student outcomes, schools can spend some of their funds on activities that result in more students getting enrolled in health coverage. Schools are in the best position to decide how funds should be used in their district, whether it’s to have counselors who screen and refer students for coverage, or for parent coordinators, or school nurses. This is a time when schools can use these new resources to create a “culture of coverage” in their schools and to help students be ready to learn.

What Should You Ask For?

Ask that the LCAP include a mechanism to help students enroll in health coverage. Every student who attends schools in the district should be screened to determine whether they have health coverage; LCFF funds can be used to help students enroll by providing enrollment assistance or helping fund an enrollment counselor. (Please see sample LCAP language⁵)

When Should You Take Action?

There are two key times during the months of March-May when you can have an impact. The first is NOW while the districts are gathering input about what ought to be included in their draft LCAP. The second is in April and May when the district’s LCAP has been drafted and is presented for public review and comment. Also keep in mind that each year the district will go through the LCAP development process, so your voice will need to be heard again next year about the importance of health coverage to student success.

How Can You Get Involved?

Districts are required under LCFF to get input from the public as they develop their LCAP and decide how to spend their funds. Whether you are a school board member, a parent, a teacher, or other school personnel, you can make your voice heard advocating for healthy students and the importance of health coverage. You can speak up at public forums on the district’s draft LCAP; you can express your views to the superintendent and his/her staff; you can submit written comments to the district, and you can communicate with school board members in person or through a letter. (Please see LCAP talking points⁴)

How Can You Get Started?

• Call your school’s district office today and ask for an opportunity to provide input into the LCAP.
• Attend the next school board meeting and share your views.
• Write a letter to your school board members and the superintendent.

You can use ALL IN’s LCAP talking points and sample LCAP language⁶. It’s best to take these actions right away because the earlier you get your ideas heard, the better the chance they will be incorporated.