

Local Control Funding Formula Community Report Card

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS



The illustrations below show the findings from a recent Communities for Los Angeles Student Success (CLASS) report on how effectively LAUSD is aligning its investments in academic programs and support services to improved outcomes for high-needs students. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is one of the largest public initiatives ever undertaken to match dollars to student need.

How It Looks Now

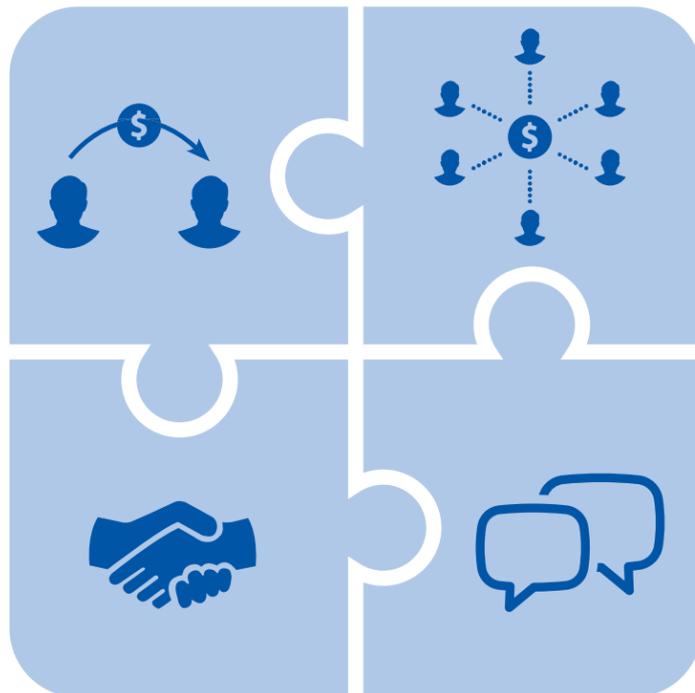
Only 3% of LAUSD's total budget goes to high-needs students. Mere crumbs of the whole pie.

Dollars aren't tied to student outcomes or a concerted strategy for high-needs students.

Principals, parents, and students remain unclear about the intention of LCFF dollars.

How It Should Look

More program dollars go to high-needs students.

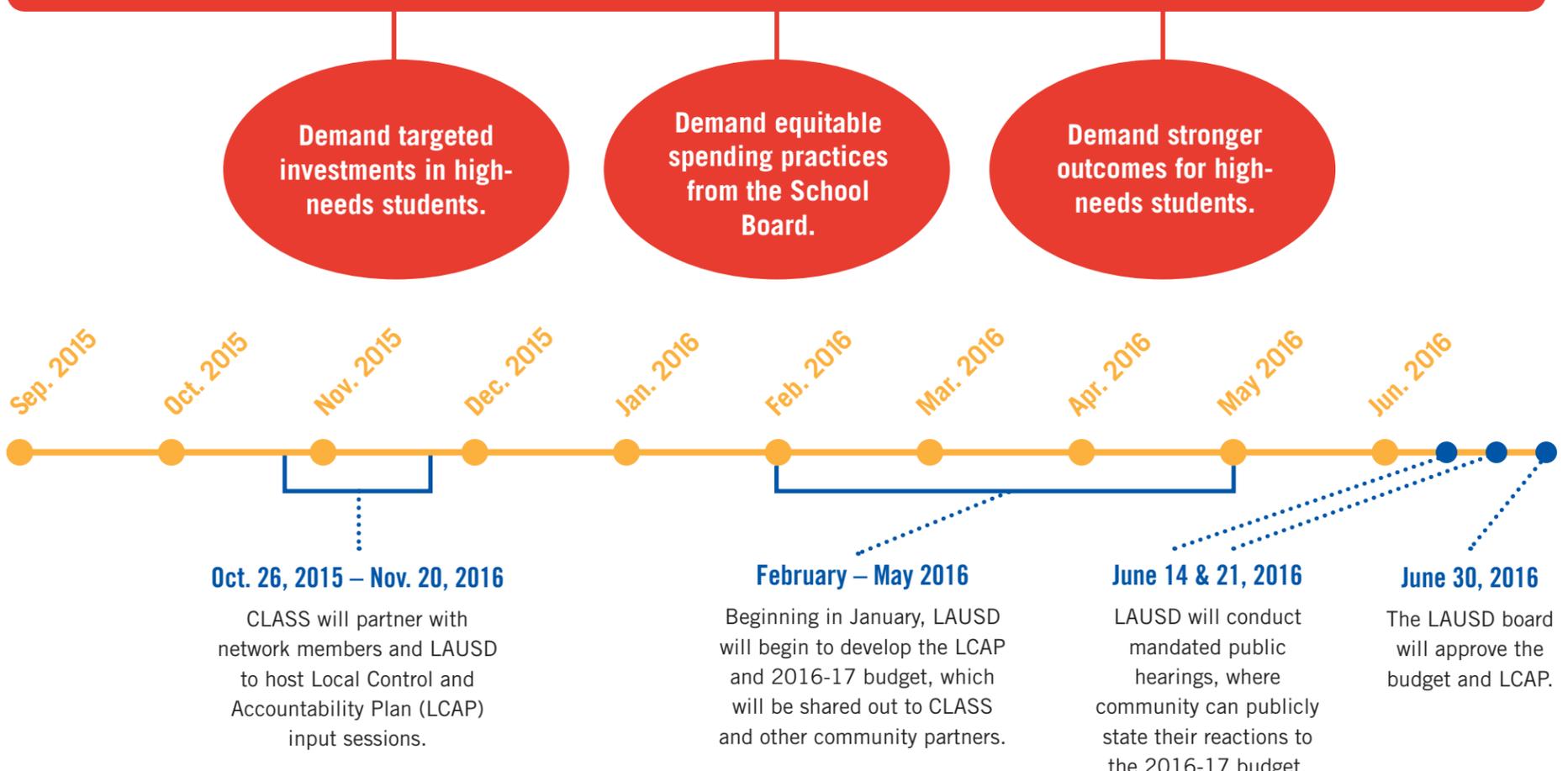


The over \$1.1 billion of LCFF dollars should be directed based on high-needs student populations and their educational outcomes.

Principals, parents, and students understand the intention of LCFF dollars.

Community feedback is solicited and incorporated into decision-making.

Make Your Voice Heard



For more information on how to get involved please contact Elmer Roldan at eroldan@unitedwayla.org or Sara Mooney at smooney@unitedwayla.org.

Executive Summary

In 2014-15 the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) received over \$800 million in state funds to increase and improve services for high-needs students—namely low-income, English Learners, and foster/homeless youth—to close the achievement gap.

This year-long study, conducted by The Communities for Los Angeles Student Success (CLASS) coalition, in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley, analyzes how LAUSD has spent the money allocated under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) during the 2014-15 school year and in anticipation of the \$1.1 billion the District will receive in the 2015-16 school year. Under LCFF, schools districts are allocated more money based on their number of high-needs students. This Executive Summary, like the study itself, are meant to help further the advocacy efforts of the CLASS coalition and help support the District in honoring the spirit of LCFF.

Using data from student surveys; focus groups with pupils, teachers, parents, and principals; and analyses of school-by-school budgets, CLASS reviewed the results in light of the following questions:

- To what extent have LCFF investment dollars been sent directly to the schools serving those pupils who generate the new state funds?
- Have LCFF dollars gone to new staff positions and programs that aim to narrow gaps in learning?
- Has the District meaningfully engaged parents, students, school-level staff, and community groups?

Findings from the study include: less than 20% of the \$820 million that high-needs students generated went directly to support those students; the District prioritized restaffing positions cut during the recession, rather than positions benefitting high-needs students; and staff, parents, and students remain unclear about the intention of LCFF dollars. Some improvement over last year also emerged, with more money being spent on instructional aides for English learners, the funding of new programs dedicated to aiding children in foster care, and dedicated funding for restorative justice programs.

To continue some of the improvements already made by LAUSD, and to help support them in their work, CLASS recommends:

- That the \$1.1 billion plus dollars that high-needs students generate for the coming year go to directly support those students.
- That this direct support is distributed to schools through a formula that takes into account the number of high-needs students at each school site and their rates of academic success—a recommitment to the Equity Index.
- Train principals and administrators to use their flexible LCFF dollars strategically; understand expectations on amount and use of all LCFF funds; and proactively engages parents, students, and teachers in the decision-making process.