

A Policy Briefing on Financing Public Education

CTA believes that adequate state and federal funding is vital to ensuring each and every student the high-quality education she/he deserves. Proposition 98's minimum funding guarantee is a floor, not a ceiling for school funding. CTA opposes any reduction in revenue to the State's General Fund that would reduce Proposition 98 funding, including tax cuts.

Funding Adequacy:

Schools also need to be funded adequately so that they can provide necessary resources in classroom supply budgets to meet the individual needs of **ALL** students.

At a minimum, funding adequacy means that schools should receive allocations that -- when measured on a per-pupil basis -- put California in the top ten of all 50 states.

CTA believes any additional revenues, such as any new tax increases, should go directly to the General Fund.

Proposition 98 Funding Guarantee

The Proposition 98 funding guarantee must be considered the minimum level – not the maximum of level – in any given state budget. CTA believes we must protect the integrity of Proposition 98.

The voters intended that Proposition 98 funding should be used for instructional purposes. Proposition 98 funds should not be used to underwrite the costs of school facilities. School facilities should be funded primarily from general obligation bonds.

Funding Responsibility:

CTA believes the state and federal government should provide adequate funds for education so that school districts can meet the goal of assuring all students receive a high-quality education.

Private School Funding, Tax Cuts and Tax “Expenditures”

CTA opposes any reduction in revenue to the State's General Fund that would reduce Proposition 98 funding. These opposed reductions include tax cuts and tax credits, or taxes that are designated to a special fund other than education.

CTA opposes any attempts to use public school funding for private schooling. These opposed allocations include vouchers, tuition tax credits, or any use of education funding for private purposes.

School Facilities

CTA believes closed public school buildings should not be sold or leased to organizations which provide education services in direct competition with public schools.



A Policy Briefing on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) is a three-year local school district plan developed in collaboration with parents, educators, and the community. The LCAP describes the goals, services, and expenditures that will support positive student outcomes and increase or improve services/programs for students that receive extra funding. Also, the LCAP must address the eight state priorities and local priorities.

The eight State Priorities are:

- Teachers of the school district are appropriately assigned
- Implementation of the academic content and performance standards
- Parental Involvement
- Pupil achievement
- Pupil engagement
- School climate
- Pupil access to and enrollment in a broad course of study
- Pupil outcomes

County Offices of Education must address the eight state priorities as well as prioritizing instruction of expelled students and services for foster youth.

CTA strongly supports the LCAP process which brings administrators, teachers, parents and the community together to create an accountability system that meets the needs of all students in their community.

A Policy Briefing on Local Control Funding Formula

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is a new funding formula that increases school funding and directs more resources to California's highest-need students. The LCFF gives more local control and flexibility to spend the money, delivering services to our most needy students. Built on a need criterion, target base grants will be distributed in certain target amounts with those amounts rising when the concentration of English learner, low-income, and foster youth grow. When fully implemented the LCFF is targeted to increase California's education spending by \$18 billion.

Old Funding System

School districts used to receive money through categorical funds that could be spent on specific programs. There were over 40 of these categorical programs, the majority of which have been eliminated under LCFF. The rest of the money, called the revenue limit, was given out using a complicated and outdated formula. The calculation was different for each district and did not take the needs of students into account. District could use these funds at their discretion.

New Funding System (Local Control Funding Formula)

Target Base Grant

The LCFF establishes uniform per-student base grants with different rates for different grade spans. These differences are intended to recognize the higher costs of education at the higher-grade levels.

Supplemental Grant

The LCFF acknowledges that English learner, low-income, and foster youth (EL/LI/FY) students have greater needs that require more resources to address. For each EL/LI/FY student, districts receive an additional 20% of the adjusted base rate per student.

Concentration Grant

On top of the supplemental grant, districts that have a high proportion (over 55%) of the EL/LI/FY students receive an additional 50% of the adjusted base rate per student for each student above 55% of enrollment.

California Teachers Association

PreK-12 & Adult Education 2021-22 Budget Principles

CTA believes the state and federal government should provide optimal funds for education to allow school districts to fulfill the goals of quality education and provide necessary resources that meet the individual needs of all students. CTA further believes funding for public education is an absolute obligation.

PreK through K12 funding:

- CTA believes the state must provide funding that moves California to the average of the top ten states in per pupil funding.
- CTA believes Proposition 98 should be a floor and not a ceiling for education funding. CTA supports the statutory supplemental payments adopted in the 2020-21 budget. CTA also supports increasing Proposition 98 funding from 38 percent to 40 percent of General Fund expenditures.
- CTA believes we must protect the integrity of Proposition 98. CTA opposes any encroachment from non-Proposition 98 programs into the Proposition 98 side of the budget. CTA believes COVID-19 and other health and safety related costs should be funded with non-Proposition 98 funding. Further, CTA opposes any action which would reduce the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee below its required constitutional and statutory funding level.
- CTA believes that Proposition 98 should be protected from reductions through the creation of new or existing tax credits and giveaways that do not provide clear economic benefits to California, including public education. CTA further believes that existing tax credits that harm Proposition 98 and thus reduce education funding should be carefully reexamined and repealed where there has not been a benefit to the California economy and public education.
- CTA believes we must support and monitor the Proposition 98 guarantee certification process to ensure it has been properly implemented and to provide certainty in school funding going forward.
- CTA believes that the Local Control Funding Formula should be continuously appropriated to ensure the flow of education dollars to California's public schools without disruption.
- CTA believes that the Local Control Funding Formula base grant should be increased beyond COLA and should utilize benchmarks to increase the LCFF base grant funding to the national average in overall per pupil funding over the next decade.
- CTA continues to support supplemental and concentration grants to meet the unique needs of California students.
- CTA opposes any policy changes to the LCFF that would require the State Board of Education to modify regulations related to allowable LCFF expenditures. Additionally, CTA believes any policy changes should be vetted through the Legislative policy committees.
- CTA supports the repayment of all deferrals proposed in the Governor's January budget. CTA supports the repayment of additional deferrals, if additional funding is available.
- CTA supports additional funding to the California State Teachers' Retirement System through additional non-Proposition 98 General Fund to reduce district's contributions. CTA supports

maintaining the integrity and implementation of AB 1469(Chapter 47, Statutes of 2014), which provided a long-term funding plan for CalSTRS.

- CTA supports increasing funding for special education. CTA believes providing adequate funding to special education to fully fund the cost of special education is needed to support increased student needs and costs. Existing state and federal mandates for special education should be funded fully before adding new program requirements or incentives.
- CTA supports maintaining the LCFF and providing the compounded 3.84 percent COLA for the LCFF.
- CTA supports at a minimum providing the 1.5 percent COLA on the remaining K-12 education categorical programs.
- CTA supports investing in educator retention and recruitment in order to address the state's teacher shortage, especially in chronic shortage areas.
- CTA supports investing in professional development to address the unique needs of educators and staff during the COVID-19 crisis.
- CTA believes schools should be protected from reductions in funding during emergencies, including pandemics and other natural disasters, in order to maintain services and support for students and staff.
- CTA supports the allocation of additional Proposition 51 bond funds to support school construction costs.
- CTA believes Career and Technical Education funding should be increased and administered by the Department of Education.
- CTA supports community schools. However, funding for wrap-around services that are activities not customarily part of instruction should be paid for by non-Proposition 98 funding.
- CTA supports additional funding to support the needs of students, educators, and staff during the COVID-19 crisis, including technology, mental health and counseling.
- One-time funding should be allocated equitably and made as flexible as possible to provide local educational agencies with discretion in addressing their unique needs.
- CTA supports expanding access to Transitional Kindergarten (TK), if implemented equitably and the appropriate resources are provided. CTA believes TK cannot be expanded within existing resources.
- CTA believes school facilities should be funded with non-Proposition 98 funding.

Adult Education Funding:

- CTA supports the principle that all adult students should have access to fully funded adult education curriculum and programs.
- CTA supports at a minimum providing the 1.5 percent COLA for the Adult Education Program.

Community College Association 2021-22 Budget Principles

CTA believes in the goals established in the Master Plan for Higher Education that the state should provide adequate funds for community colleges to fulfill the goals of both student access and a quality education and should provide necessary resources to meet the needs of all students who attend community colleges. CTA further believes adequate funding for public higher education is a necessity.

Community College Funding:

- CTA believes that the state should provide adequate funding for community colleges to ensure access to a tuition-free community college education for all students.
- CTA believes that Proposition 98 should be a floor and not a ceiling for education funding. CTA supports the statutory supplemental payments adopted in the 2020-21 budget. CTA also supports increasing Proposition 98 funding from 38 percent to 40 percent of General Fund expenditures.
- CTA believes that we must protect the integrity of Proposition 98 and that we must support and monitor the Proposition 98 guarantee certification process to ensure it is properly implemented.
- CTA opposes any encroachment from non-Proposition 98 programs into the Proposition 98 side of the budget. CTA believes COVID-19 and other health and safety related costs should be funded with non-Proposition 98 funding. Further, CTA opposes any action which would reduce the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee below its required constitutional and statutory funding level.
- CTA believes that Proposition 98 should be protected from the reductions that occur when tax credits and giveaways are created that do not provide clear economic benefits to California. Existing tax credits that harm Proposition 98 and thus reduce PreK- 14 funding should be carefully reexamined and repealed where there has not been a benefit to the California economy and public education.
- CTA believes that PreK – 12 school districts and local community colleges are best suited to provide vocational instruction to the workforce in their communities. Statewide community college districts such as Calbright should be carefully monitored and only supported if they clearly provide a cost-effective benefit to the unique needs of under-employed Californians.
- CTA supports additional funding to the California State Teachers' Retirement System through non-Proposition 98 General Fund allocations in order to reduce community colleges' contributions. CTA supports maintaining the integrity and implementation of AB 1469 (Chapter 47, Statutes of 2014), which provided a long-term funding plan for CalSTRS.
- CTA supports increased funding for part-time faculty support. Specifically, CTA supports additional funding to provide pay and benefit parity for part-time faculty, including office hours, professional development, and other supports.
- CTA supports increasing the base allocation for community colleges.
- CTA opposes funding based on completion metrics of any sort.

- CTA supports providing additional resources to low-income students, including CalGrants and emergency student financial assistance during the COVID-19 crisis.
- CTA supports investing in efforts to bolster enrollment and retention rates for community college students, especially for students whose education has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- CTA supports at a minimum providing the 1.5 percent COLA on apportionments and all part-time categorical programs.
- CTA supports increased funding for enrollment growth.
- CTA supports the repayment of all deferrals proposed in the Governor's January budget. CTA supports the repayment of additional deferrals, if additional funding is available.
- CTA supports increasing the number of and diversity of full-time faculty to meet and exceed the 75/25 percent full-time faculty provisions of AB 1725.
- CTA supports investing in professional development for faculty.
- CTA supports additional funding to support students and faculty during the COVID-19 crisis, including tutoring, technology, counseling, mental health, and other supports.
- CTA supports the allocation of additional Proposition 51 bond funds to support eligible construction projects at community colleges.