



January 15, 2014

President Michael Kirst and Members
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, #5111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: January Meeting Agenda Items 20 & 21: Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

Dear President Kirst and Members of the State Board of Education:

We appreciate this opportunity for public comment as you consider the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) template. As a collaboration of school districts focused on helping all students achieve at high levels, with an unwavering belief in equity and access for all students, and commitment to closing achievement gaps and eliminating disproportionality in our education systems, we are writing to express our support for the proposed LCAP template.

We applaud the proposed template as a good compromise, prioritizing California's commitment to equity for students with greater challenges, while also providing much-needed flexibility for local communities to design and tailor educational services to their students' needs.

The flexibility in the LCAP template allows local communities to develop and implement innovative solutions that hold our communities accountable for preparing all students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This flexibility also enables school districts in the CORE consortium to align our state and federal equity- and achievement-focused initiatives and accountability systems aimed at improving educational outcomes. We greatly appreciate that the template will allow our districts to develop an LCAP that works synergistically with our federally-approved accountability system, the School Quality Improvement System, which has accountability metrics that correspond to, and exceed, those required in the LCAP template. Together, these new state and federal accountability systems represent a powerful opportunity for us to use resources in ways that most effectively help prepare all students for college and careers, and focus support on underserved student groups.

Thank you for your work on behalf of California's students.

Sincerely,

The CORE Board of Directors

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District

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Sara Noguchi, *Interim Superintendent, Sacramento City Unified School District*

Christopher J. Steinhauser, *Superintendent, Long Beach City Unified School District*

Dr. Gary Yee, *Superintendent, Oakland City Unified School District*

Dr. Janet Young, *Superintendent, Clovis Unified School District*

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Dr. Richard L. Miller, *Superintendent, Santa Ana Unified School District*