Implementing California's School Funding Formula

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Time of tremendous change for K–12 funding and accountability

- Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) implementation going more quickly than expected

- Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) templates approved in spring 2014
  - Districts engaged in planning over the summer
  - County offices approved LCAPs in the fall
  - Early analyses released in the fall/winter

- LCAP rubrics and California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) coming soon
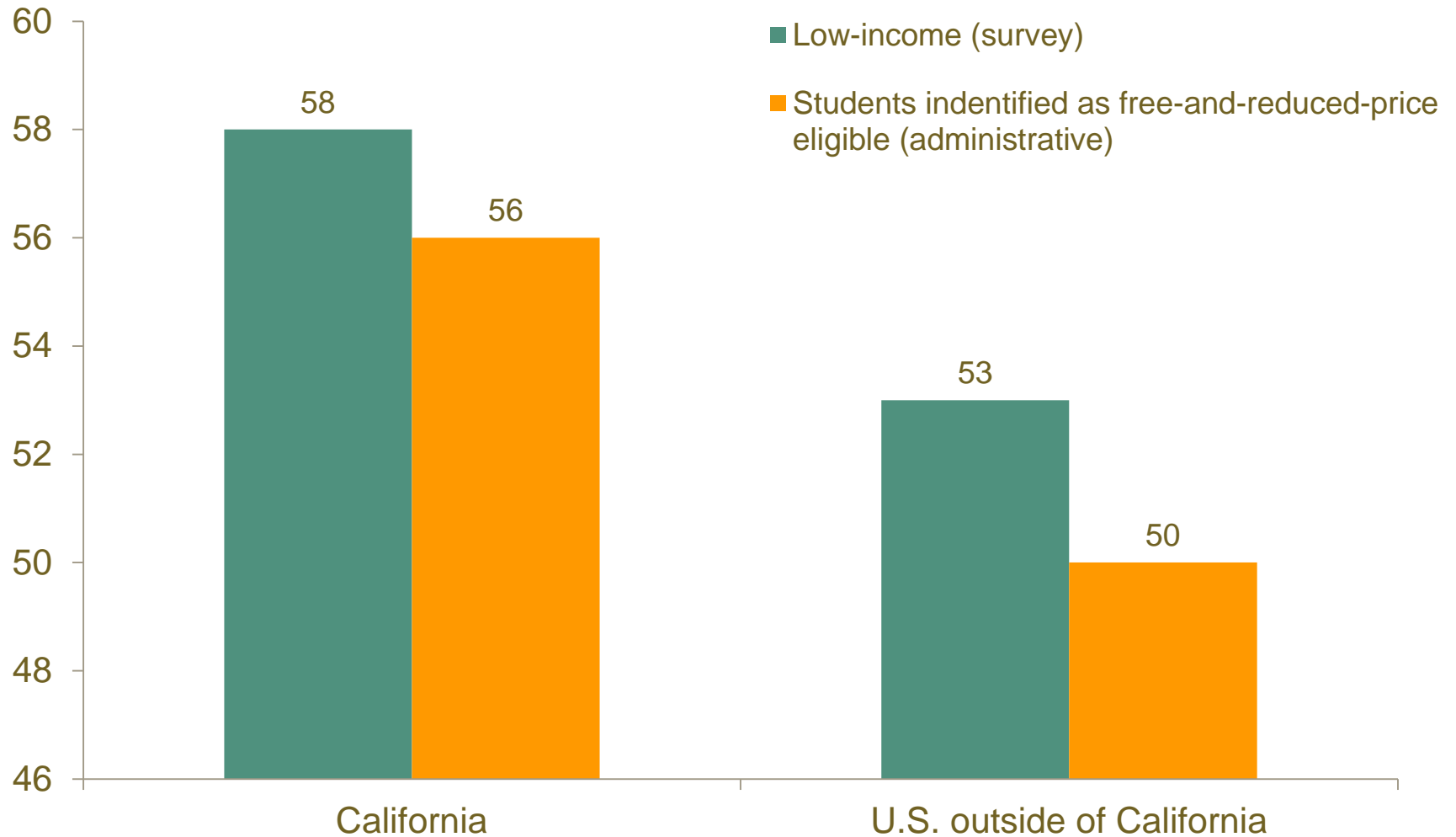
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LCFF gives districts new incentives to identify high-need students

- Per pupil district-based formula, with supplemental and concentration grants for high-need students

- Statewide, 63% of K–12 students are high need
  - Low-income students (eligible for free and reduced-price meals because family income is <185% of the poverty line)
  - Foster youth
  - English Learners

- There are differences across schools in identification of low-income students

California schools identify a high share of needy students

Legend:
- ■ Low-income (survey)
- ■ Students indentified as free-and-reduced-price eligible (administrative)

California: 58, 56
U.S. outside of California: 53, 50

Will funding reach all high-need students?

- How are high-need students concentrated in districts and schools?
  - Identification strategies play a role
  - Variations in poverty and segregation are key

- High-need students are distributed across schools in high-need districts

- We find pockets of high-need students in districts that are low need
  - Funding may not get to their schools
  - May not qualify for concentration grants

High-need schools in low-need districts

| School	District	School share of high-need students	District share of high-need students
Kinoshita Elm	Capistrano USD	97.5%	24.0%
Richard Henry Dana Elm	Capistrano USD	91.0%	24.0%
Glenwood Elm	Conejo Valley USD	90.3%	25.7%
Melrose Elm	Placentia Yorba Linda USD	99.4%	37.1%
Marylin Avenue Elm	Livermore Valley Joint USD	88.9%	28.9%
Valadez Middle School Academy	Placentia Yorba Linda USD	96.5%	37.1%
Captain Cooper Elm	Carmel USD	75.8%	17.0%
Topaz Elm	Placentia Yorba Linda USD	95.6%	37.1%
Bay Area School of Enterprise	Alameda USD	98.6%	40.1%
Cordova Villa Elm	Folsom Cordova USD	96.0%	39.0%

Districts and counties with large school-to-district differences

	County	Countywide average school-to-district difference (percentage point)
1	San Francisco	17.8
2	Sacramento	17.4
3	San Diego	17.0
4	Orange	15.0
5	Santa Cruz	15.0
6	Napa	14.2
7	Solano	13.8
8	Santa Clara	13.7
9	Sonoma	13.7
10	Contra Costa	12.5

Special case: concentration funding

High-need students
not in high-need districts

·	100
○	500
○	1,000
○	5,000
○	10,000
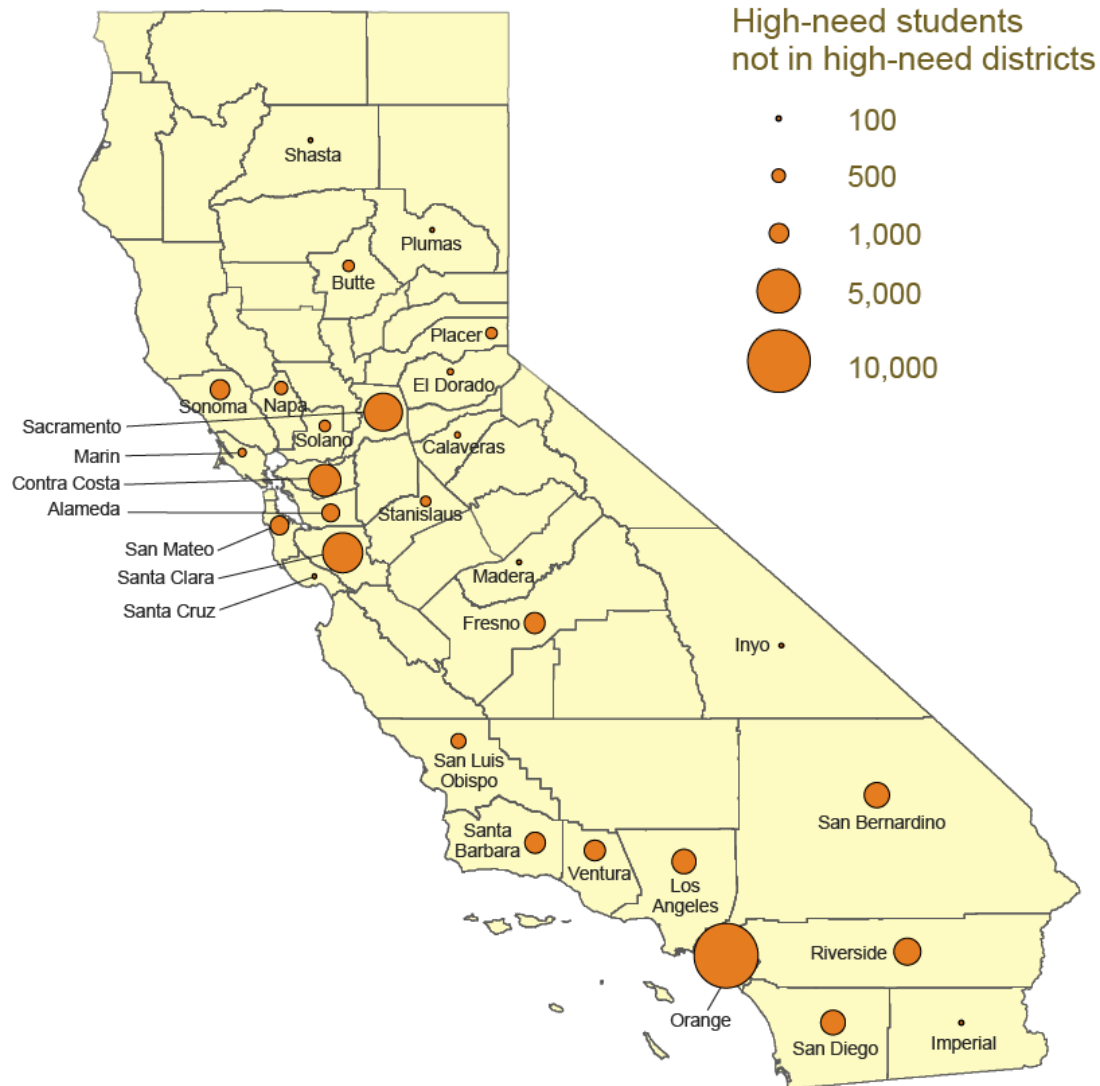
First year plans vary widely in effectiveness

- Not all state goals are directly included

- Few plans include data to justify goals and actions

- County office reviews did not improve most plans significantly

- Some districts are clearly inexperienced with strategic planning and budgeting

Local input did not meet expectations

- Districts felt they worked hard to get public input

- Turnout was low, and meetings generated little new information

- School staff and parents were represented
  – Community groups and students less so

- Districts need technical assistance on helping outside groups participate in input/planning

Will LCFF/LCAP improve outcomes and close achievement gaps?

- Districts like the process but need more time with it

- The state may be missing opportunities by not being more involved
  - Serving high-need schools in low-need districts
  - Effective outreach and strategic planning
    - Increase role of county offices of education?
    - California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE)

- Balance between autonomy and accountability

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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.