Funding Education in California

School Funding and the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

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California schools are funded by a mix of state, local, and federal funding

- **State:** general fund, other $$, lottery (~55%–60% of funding)
- **Local:** property taxes, other taxes/fees (~30%–35%)
- **Federal:** Title I, meals; higher in pandemic/recessions (~6%–9%)
10 years ago, Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) brought fundamental shift

- Increased funding for high-need students (low-income, English Learner, foster youth)
  - "Weighted": districts with more high-need students get more $$

- Simplified funding formula
  - Greater flexibility: less reliance on restricted funding items

- Spending now 65% higher per student:
  - $22,684 per student in 2021–22 vs $14,245 in 2012–13
Additional funding targets high-need students under LCFF

Per-pupil funding

Notes: LCFF funding for a district with grade-level distribution equivalent to statewide average. Only base, supplemental, and concentration grant funds included.
What do we know about the impact of LCFF?

- Improved outcomes, esp. due to concentration grant
- Not all additional funds for high-need students well-targeted
- Longstanding achievement concerns—and achievement gaps
What do we want to know about LCFF?

- Autonomy vs. accountability—what is the right balance?
- Does LCFF need “retuning?” Is base sufficient?
  - Ongoing challenges: learning recovery, enrollment, staff shortages, etc.
  - How best to use funding to address longstanding and emerging challenges?
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.