

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

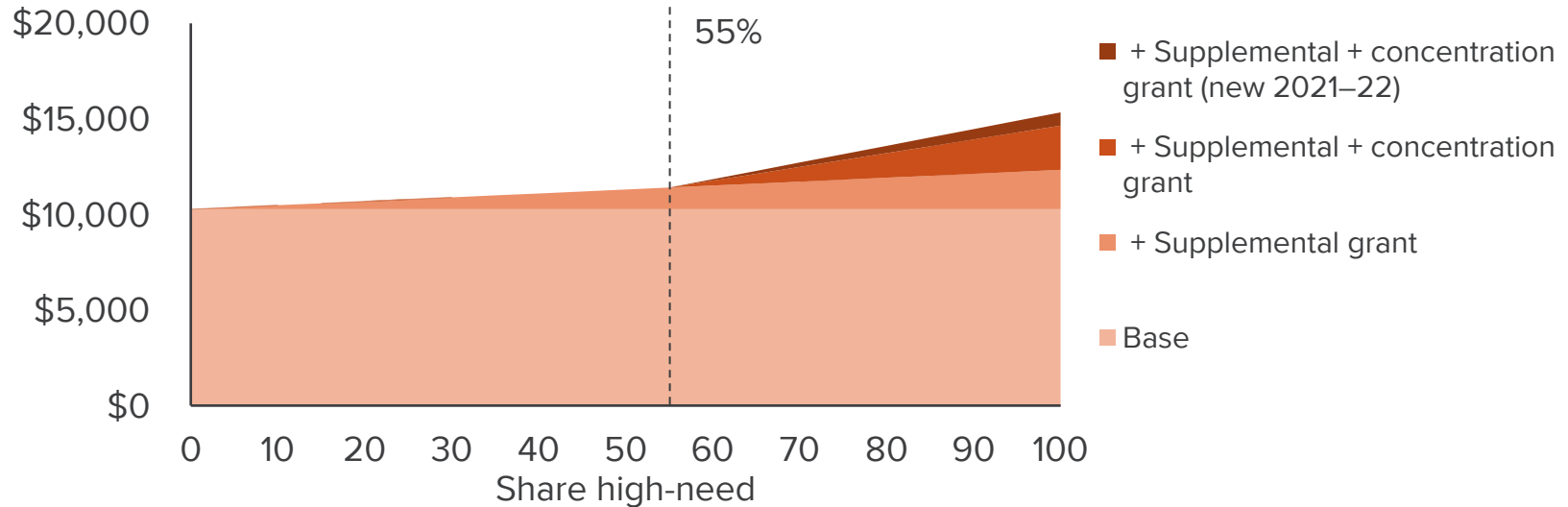
- **State:** general fund, other \$\$, lottery (~55%–60% of funding)
- **Local:** property taxes, other taxes/fees (~30%–35%)
- **Federal:** Title I, meals; higher in pandemic/recessions (~6%–9%)

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.