

Assembly Member Joan Buchanan
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Assembly Member Buchanan,

I am writing to oppose significant features of the Governor's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) that will negatively affect services and programs for English Learners. I am asking that you and your committee address the following issues and recommendations in the Governor's LCFF.

Issues:

1. An arbitrary 5 year cap to support services for English learners would be established
 - a. No monies will be provided for services for English learners after they are in our schools for five years tremendously affecting upper elementary, middle and high school students and schools
 - b. ELs have different profiles and progress at different rates and the current reclassification criteria in state law sets level of language and academic proficiency a student needs.
2. The supplemental funds are not required to be spent on the English learners
 - a. The money goes into the general fund and can be used for purposes that "substantially benefit" ELs. The district can use these funds for any purpose they deem beneficial.
 - b. There is no language in the formula that requires the monies to supplement not supplant basic services to English learners.
3. The District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) and the school site English Learner Advisory Committees (ELAC) would not longer be required
 - a. The only advisory committees that directly involve parents of English learners will not longer be mandates.
 - b. This significantly reduces the parent voice and engagement of parents of English learners.

Recommendations:

1. Eliminate the arbitrary five-year cap placed on supplemental funds for English Language Learners. A cap does not currently exist in the Economic Impact Aid (EIA) program.
2. Require that supplemental funds be spent on ELs and economically disadvantaged students as currently required in the EIA.
3. Include supplant language as is recommended by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in order to ensure that the supplemental funds will indeed be supplemental and not supplant existing resources at the school site.
4. Maintain the mandate for the DELACs and ELACs

I urge you to address these issues and incorporate the recommendations into any school finance proposal.

Sincerely, (include name , address and job title if you can)