



VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Stanley C. Mantooth, County Superintendent of Schools

THE LCAP EXPERIENCE YEAR 1

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In conjunction with the recently enacted LCFF, Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs) are also now required as a companion piece to illustrate how resources will be used to support student learning; with particular emphasis on English Language Learners and Students of Poverty. As you know, this was the initial year for LCAP development based upon emergency regulations approved by the California State Board of Education in January 2014. As a result, this was an accelerated process which required all school districts and county offices of education to develop, submit and have LCAPs approved prior to July 1, 2014.

As is often the case in education nowadays, it is like changing a tire while a car is in motion. However, as with so many things successfully done in Ventura County, each and every school district and the COE did develop and subsequently had these plans approved. The process in getting to that point was supported with professional development on LCAP regulations and templates, technical assistance both during and after draft review, and one-on-one and group sessions to ensure a successful result.

Another hallmark of LCAP development was the collaborations and cross-pollination of school district Business Offices with Educational Services, allowing both sides a more informed understanding of how financial resources and students' academic achievement come together. This was also not done without much heavy lifting, as the State did not provide additional money for the development of the necessary manuals, workshops, and staff time to complete this document. Nonetheless, despite these challenges, there was strong evidence of both meaningful stakeholder engagement and a sharper focus on State priorities.

Events continue to evolve, as evidenced by the State Board of Education's unanimous action on September 4th to move ahead on not only LCFF spending regulations, but also on a revised LCAP template which further refines and brings together the interest of Superintendents, School Board members, advocates, students, parents, and major educational organizations such as CSBA. These newly adopted regulations and reformatted template will replace the emergency regulations and template adopted in January 2014, with the revised LCAP including changes to make it easier to understand and use.

Also heard prominently during these discussions was the voice of students and student advocacy groups for greater student involvement in the LCAP development process, as opposed to being merely presented to students for review. Hopefully, this decision and its attendant changes will remain in place for at least a year, enabling school districts and county offices of education to catch their breath and more deeply deliver on successful services to students within this framework. Change is good, but change all the time often generates more confusion than clarity.

Going forward into the next year, we again anticipate positive results by leveraging the initial experience gained in this noble effort. Stay tuned.

Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools