

LVEA TODAY



Local Control Accountability Plan

As you are aware, Governor Brown has changed the funding structure for education, it is called "Local Control Funding Formula." We used to be funded on a flat amount per child. The funding has changed to a system based on grade level and certain demographics. Children who are ELL, free-and-reduced lunch eligible, and foster children are funded at a higher rate than children who are not. The funding difference is substantial- students in Las Virgenes will be funding a few thousand dollars less per child than kids in some communities. Another piece of this funding model was to virtually eliminate all strings on money (categorical funds are gone) in order to give school districts more control.

After this funding formula was put into place many began to question the idea of giving that much money to a government agency with no strings attached. The Governor and his staff came up with a new accountability measure called the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). All districts are required to create this LCAP to justify/explain the expenditures of the LCFF money. The plan is overhauled every three years with annual tweaks, all due by June 30 of each year.

The district is required to seek input from all stakeholders, including their local associations. LVEA has selected representatives on the panel representing different aspects of our bargaining unit- SPED (Andy Bouman), counseling (Pat Brooks), elementary/ELD (Robin Frank), middle (Mike LaFrenz), high (Catherine Foley), and LVEA (Craig Hochhaus). These representatives will be giving input on best practices and where the district should be investing its resources.

You will receive a survey from the district soon asking for your input on district practices/resources. Please take a few minutes to answer the survey; your input will be used in the LCAP. It is a unique opportunity for all of us to give this kind of input into the direction of the school district.

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LVEA March site visit schedule:

- 3/18 – Willow
- 3/20 – Yerba Buena/Buttercup
- 3/24 – Lindero Canyon
- 3/26 – Calabasas/Indian Hills

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Your Weingarten Rights

You have a right to union representation during an investigatory interview. An investigatory interview occurs if: 1) management questions you to obtain information; and 2) you have a reasonable belief that your answers could be used as a basis for discipline or other adverse action.

You must ask for union representation either at the beginning of, or during, the interview. Management does not have to remind you of this right. If your request is refused and management continues asking questions, you may refuse to answer, but you must remain until management terminates the interview. Your employer may be guilty of an unfair labor practice and charges may be filed.

J-5 Common Core Task Force

With full implementation of the Common Core looming for the 2014-15 school year, LVEA has worked with the District to create a J-5 Common Core Task Force in order to help our Elementary teachers with the transition. Sixteen of our talented J-5 teachers have agreed to sit on this important committee in order to work on providing our Elementary teachers with lesson and unit plan templates, assessment rubrics, and other resources. Over the next several weeks, they will be collecting materials that our teachers have already begun working on and/or completed, and will collate those materials and supplement them with their contributions. The committee will also work on a proposal for a Staff Development option for the June 12-13 SD days for those schools who have not yet formalized their own plan (see article below).

There has been much concern that the J-5 voice has been missing from many of the decisions that have been made regarding the implementation of Common Core, including, but not limited to, the adoption of materials, the development of curriculum, and the creation of benchmark assessments. As a result, LVEA approached the LVUSD cabinet with an idea to put teachers' expertise into the process of the development and implementation of Common Core. The district agreed, and been very supportive of the idea. LVEA feels this **entirely teacher-driven committee** will help create a strong foundation for elementary schools to start next school year. We are grateful that the district has agreed to work collaboratively with this group and has offered support both financially and logistically. Although the District has provided time for the group to meet out of the Common Core fund, ultimately the outcomes of the group will be determined by its members with input and feedback from their peers. Every site and grade level is represented on this committee. Please be sure to contact your representative on the committee if you any questions or contributions.

Submit your June SD proposals!

Just a reminder that if your site, department, grade level, etc. has not yet submitted a proposal for the June 12-13 SDD, you need to submit one soon to Mary Schillinger at the DO. As of mid-March only two schools have submitted proposals for how they would like to use those days. Remember, these are YOUR days to collaborate with your colleagues on Common Core implementation. The J-5 Common Core Task Force will have lesson and unit plan templates, assessment rubrics, and other resources to help Elementary teachers who wish to work at their sites and/or with their grade levels. Again, these are voluntary, positive attendance days – you must be present in order to be paid for these days.

What's up with my 2013 tax return?

Did your 2013 W2 show lower earnings than 2012? LVEA has received some calls regarding this.

Starting in August 2012, STRS mandated that the District begin paying employees at the end of August since we actually start work that month. You might have noticed that your actual paycheck decreased starting August 2012, since your annual salary was being divided by 11 months instead of 10. As a result, six of your paychecks in 2012 (Jan - June) were based on a salary divided by 10, and five (Aug - Dec) were based on your salary divided by 11. In 2013, all eleven paychecks were based on your salary divided by 11.

Even though you earned a 2% increase beginning Aug 2013, your total 2013 earnings may have reflected a decrease, since this was the first year that all of your paychecks were divided by 11.

It's an accounting thing...this year will balance out, and your 2014 W2 should reflect higher yearly earnings than 2012 and 2013.



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