

**Jennifer O'Day, Chair**  
American Institutes for Research

**Kent Bechler**  
Pivot Learning Partners

**George Bohrnstedt**  
American Institutes for Research

**Jim Brown**  
Pivot Learning Partners

**Richard Carranza**  
San Francisco Unified School District

**Cynthia Coburn**  
University of California, Berkeley

**John Deasy**  
Los Angeles Unified School District

**Ken Doane**  
S. H. Cowell Foundation

**Patricia Gándara**  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Amy Gerstein**  
John W. Gardner Center

**Kenji Hakuta**  
Stanford University

**Mike Hanson**  
Fresno Unified School District

**Matt Hill**  
Los Angeles Unified School District

**Holly Jacobson**  
Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning  
at WestEd

**Joseph Johnson**  
San Diego State University

**Marc Johnson**  
Sanger Unified School District

**Derry and Charlene Kabcenell**  
Dirk & Charlene Kabcenell Foundation

**Kristi Kimball**  
Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation

**Vince Matthews**  
San Jose Unified School District

**Maggie Mejia**  
Former Superintendent

**Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana**  
Santa Ana Unified School District

**Rick Miller**  
California Education Partners

**Ellen Moir**  
New Teacher Center

**Rose Owens-West**  
Region IX Equity Assistance Center at WestEd

**Christy Pichel**  
Stuart Foundation

**Arun Ramanathan**  
The Education Trust—West

**Jonathan Raymond**  
Sacramento City Unified School District

**Jorge Ruiz de Velasco**  
Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy

**Laura Schwalm**  
Garden Grove Unified School District

**Warren Simmons**  
Annenberg Institute for School Reform

**Marshall "Mike" Smith**  
Carnegie Foundation

**Tony Smith**  
Oakland Unified School District

**Brad Stam**  
ConnectEd

**Christopher Steinhauser**  
Long Beach Unified School District

**Joan Talbert**  
Stanford University

**Dale Vigil**  
Los Angeles Unified School District, Local Dst. 4

**Aída Walqui**  
WestEd

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Joan Buchanan, Chair  
Assembly Education Committee  
State Capitol, 1020 N Street, Room 159  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB88, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

Dear Madam Chair,

As educators focused on developing and implementing systemic district-level strategies to reduce opportunity gaps and improve teaching and learning for all students, we are writing to express our strong support for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The LCFF will create a finance system that allows local educators and communities to adapt, innovate, and respond to changing student needs in more coherent and effective ways than is currently supported by the panoply of categorical programs in the state. Under LCFF, district and school staff will spend far less time navigating the cumbersome bureaucracy created over decades by layers of restrictions and requirements and will instead be able to focus more directly on improving educational outcomes. Combined with upcoming revisions to the Academic Performance Index required by SB 1458 and with implementation of the Common Core State Standards and aligned assessments, the LCFF can strengthen local accountability for ensuring that all students graduate ready for college and career.

By contrast, accountability in the current system is undermined because over-regulation of school spending makes it difficult for districts and their schools to develop coherent educational approaches that are responsive to students, parents and employers. Confidence in public education is being undercut by this lack of responsiveness. Under LCFF each district and county office of education will have to adopt an accountability plan to demonstrate how funding will be spent. This plan must address how students will be provided a core instructional program, how the needs of students who are generating additional funding will be met, and how the district will move to implement the Common Core State Standards. The plan must also be developed with input from parents, teachers and other school staff and the community. By ensuring alignment between the accountability plan and budget adoption and approval, this new process will create an increased level of transparency for school funding and will help us communicate with our publics both our goals for students and the strategies we will use to reach those goals.

LCFF also takes care to ensure that no school district loses funding, and based on recent runs by the Department of Finance and the California Department of Education, districts serving 97.5 percent of students across the state will see their funding increase. Coupled with an amendment that commits to continuously funding enrollment growth, the LCFF would, for the first time, provide all students equal access to a base level of funding—a goal that has been attempted but has been out of reach for decades. In addition, LCFF will create a coherent rationale for how we fund low income, English Learner and students in foster care instead of relying on outdated formulas and a patchwork of categorical funding streams.

We urge you to pass LCFE in the budget this year as we begin to reinvest in public education. Doing so will help to ensure California has a coherent, rational finance system – now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer O'Day  
Chair  
California Collaborative on District Reform

Christopher Steinhauser  
Superintendent  
Long Beach Unified School District

John Deasy  
Superintendent  
Los Angeles Unified School District

Marcus Johnson  
Superintendent  
Sanger Unified School District

Mike Hanson  
Superintendent  
Fresno Unified School District

Richard Carranza  
Superintendent  
San Francisco Unified School District

Tony Smith  
Superintendent  
Oakland Unified School District

Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana  
Superintendent  
Santa Ana Unified School District

Vincent Matthews  
Superintendent  
San Jose Unified School District

cc:  
Members, Assembly Education Committee  
Governor Jerry Brown