

State Board of Education Approves Emergency Regulations

January 17, 2014

After a seven hour public hearing, which included a personal visit by the Governor and over 300 speakers, the LCFF emergency regulations were approved by the State Board of Education with no amendments.

CASP was well-represented at the meeting with Lobbyist Jeff Frost speaking to the board and Executive Director Heidi Holmblad working with the Pupil Services Coalition who raised concerns about accountability in the LCAP planning process.

During the discussion by the board members, all of them commented on the breadth and depth of the comments that were made by the public. They also indicated that many of the suggestions offered were worthy of further discussion and consideration. As Board member Sue Burr indicated, there may need to be some “tweaking done” as the board considers the permanent regulations which are to come next. Board President Kirst also indicated his interest in exploring some of the suggestions and said that in adopting these emergency regulations the board was going to allow for “further public input and consideration” of possible changes in the permanent regulations.

In approving the regulations, the board directed staff to also prepare some “guiding documents” that could be sent to the filed to help provide more background and understanding the statute and the regulations. These guidelines should include the following:

1. Explanation of the role of the county superintendent in LCFF oversight of districts;
2. An analysis of how the LCFF integrates with federal law to ensure that all questions of possible supplanting are addressed;
3. Coordination of LCFF with school site plans and guidance on where operational integration should or can best occur;
4. Establishment of a set of best practices for community involvement that can be made available to districts;
5. Clarification of how the requirements for charters and districts compare and contrast for LCFF;
6. The development of an electronic template for use by districts;

During the comments by board members there were a number of notable comments:

Board member Williams indicated that she hoped there was a way to include guidance for districts on the importance of trying to integrate supplemental services into the LCFF and LCAP planning. This would include mental health services, psychological services and counseling given the importance this will have on student outcomes.

Board member Rucker wanted to make sure that the board gave further thought to how districts would be evaluated and ultimately be held accountable in the LCFF process. She also addressed an issue that had been raised by a number of speakers on how the LCFF could ensure that strategies were developed to help parents assist their children with their homework.

In the end the Board unanimously supported the emergency regulations and will now begin work on the permanent regulations. We will have to maintain the same level of vigilance over the language of these permanent regulations as we move forward but for now all districts understand what the rules of the game are for developing their LCAPs for 2014-15.

As more information becomes available we will pass it on.

Finally, I wanted to thank all of you that took the time to write letters to the Board and that came to Sacramento to participate in the hearing. The strong showing of school management teams was very impressive and a number of the board members commented on it in their closing remarks. Great job!