



September 4, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1835 (Weber and Quirk-Silva) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of EdVoice, I respectfully request your signature on AB 1835 to provide better transparency and close the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) loophole, to ensure supplemental and concentrations grants are indeed allocated to increase or improve services for disadvantaged students and English learners as intended.

Currently, the state provides almost \$10 billion in LCFF supplemental and concentration grant funds above base grants for the purpose of providing compensatory support to students that need the most help. However, the State Auditor found “billions” of dollars are unaccounted for and districts have redistributed unspent LCFF supplemental and concentration funds in one fiscal year for general purposes in future years.

Districts are using the loophole, lack of transparency and passive bureaucratic oversight to redirect funds intended for disadvantaged students and English learners. We know, and we know the state knows, this scheme and lax state oversight has allowed districts to shift hundreds of millions of dollars intended for disadvantaged students across fiscal years to support schools in their most affluent zip codes.

In introducing your 2020 budget proposal in January, you stated a key principle you embrace on investing and replicating success in public programs is to double down on what works and disinvest in what doesn't. But without closing the loophole or requiring transparent expenditure data, the wise guiding principle is nearly impossible to employ. Instead, California risks a return to decades of adding new categorical programs calcified on top of each other because there's no data or political courage to prioritize limited resources and double down on what works.

Continuing the loophole and allowing obtuse reporting enables allocations blatantly inconsistent with the LCFF promise of extra help to support equity of opportunity. We urge you to sign AB 1835. If you have any questions regarding our recommendation, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lucia".

Bill Lucia, President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Shirley Weber, Assembly Member, 79th District
The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, Assembly Member, 65th District
Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor