

ELD & LCFF  
INFO SHEET



## Strengthen ELD in your community through LCFF

As an advocate for **Early Learning and Development (ELD)**, you can now work with your district to encourage investments in early learning programs and services in your community through implementation of the state's new education finance model, the **Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)**.

Signed into law in 2013, LCFF provides districts with more funding for vulnerable students and more flexibility in spending their education dollars to best meet their students' needs. Your local school district is currently in the process of drafting a budget and an accountability plan to ensure it meets the new requirements under LCFF. As part of this process, your district is required to gather the community's input to make these decisions.

This requirement provides ELD advocates an **unprecedented opportunity** to work in partnership with the school system and community to push for the high quality ELD opportunities that research shows help improve outcomes for children in K-12 and beyond.

To guide you through this engagement process, Children Now has created a primer (see [www.childrennow.org/lcffprimer](http://www.childrennow.org/lcffprimer)) that provides a comprehensive overview on LCFF and a **step by step** guide on how to leverage it to make the case for ELD. We also provide summaries of key early learning research, district budget and planning timelines, and lists of questions to ask your school leaders.

Districts are now drafting their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs), a document that will hold them accountable to meeting LCFF's eight priority areas on student and school improvement.

### How Research Links LCFF and ELD to LCAP's Priority Areas

**Priority: Increases Student Academic Achievement**

- ELD promotes achievement gains, narrows the achievement gap
- Preschools reduce special education placements

**Priority: Strengthens Student Engagement**

- Preschoolers have fewer absences in kindergarten
- ELD programs improve graduation rates

**Priority: Improves School Climate**

- Preschool promotes social-emotional development
- Preschool and home visitation programs lead to reduced crime

**Priority: Promotes Parent Involvement**

- Parents engaged in preschool remain engaged in K-12
- Parents read to their kids more often when in infant/toddler programs



## 3 Ways to Get Started



**Share the Research that Proves ELD Helps Reduce the Achievement Gap**

- Promotes academic and social development
- Develops critical lifelong learning skills

**Understand the Dynamics in Your Local District**

- Familiarize yourself with the district's budget and planning process
- Assess the existing ELD needs and assets in your community

**Engage & Build Relationships with Stakeholders in Your Community**

- Identify local resources and partners to work with
- Develop an ELD approach that fits your community's specific needs

