

A Message from the Riverside Unified School District Interim Superintendent:

Take a look around you – at your neighbors, friends and colleagues. Are you all exactly the same? Do you all have the same skills, talents and interests? Of course you don't.

California students are unique as well, and each community has special goals and challenges to address in order to ensure student success for all.

And yet, for as long as most of us can remember, our schools have operated under the same formula prescribed by Sacramento. With virtually every dollar controlled by the state, local districts had very little control over how to best serve a community's unique needs. Unfortunately, that resulted in a "one size fits all" approach to education across the state. And, in reality, one size fits none.

But with recent changes in state law, local districts, such as the Riverside Unified School District, now are seeing a long-needed "shift" from state control to local control. This is an historic and exciting time in education. In concert with a new state funding system, school districts now have the opportunity and flexibility to serve their community's unique needs.

We are now developing a locally-minded plan that will establish priorities and goals that uniquely address the needs of our students. We also have been charged with focusing on the needs of our academically disadvantaged students to ensure that every child, no matter what challenges they face, has equal access to the educational tools that will help them to succeed.

We need your help with this process. In the coming weeks and months, the Riverside Unified School District will be engaged in an unprecedented and broad effort to reach out to our community as we begin our planning process. We want to know your ideas and vision when thinking of this question, "What would most help all students in RUSD to be successful?"

The Board of Education will consider your ideas when developing the plan, which they will complete this spring.

We have scheduled a series of community meetings which we strongly encourage you to attend to share your ideas. Our meetings will take place on various dates and times at locations across the district beginning January 29 and continuing through February 24. A list of meeting dates and times can be found on our website: www.successforstudents.org. You also can share ideas electronically on this site. The public also will have an opportunity to comment about the plan as we go through the adoption process this spring.

This is a unique time in our history. We hope everyone can be a part of it. This is our opportunity-- as a district and as a community -- to make a difference that will last for generations to come.

*-Mike Fine,
Interim Superintendent, Riverside Unified School District*

Local Control and Accountability Plan FAQs

Q: What is the Local Control and Accountability Plan?

A: The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) is a locally-minded educational plan designed to meet the unique needs of **all** students here in Riverside so that we can better ensure their success in the future. It will identify goals, specific actions to carry out those goals, and the resources required to support the specific actions.

Q: Does this plan affect all students or does it apply only to certain groups?

A: Our Local Control and Accountability Plan will help **all** students to succeed. That being said, we have been tasked with focusing our efforts on academically-needy students to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to be successful.

Q: How does the Local Control and Accountability Plan differ from what we have now?

A: In the past, local districts had little local control over their educational programs. Because every dollar was controlled by the state, we ended up with a “one size fits all” program. But, we know that communities throughout the state are unique and have unique needs. This new plan will help us to address those.

Q: How is this plan being developed?

A: We are starting the process now by seeking community input. We encourage **everyone** to participate by sharing your vision. What do you think would most help all students in RUSD to be successful? Let us know! You can attend a community meeting, or submit your idea here on this website. This crucial community input will be submitted to the Board of Education to be used when drafting the Local Control and Accountability Plan. The public will have another opportunity to review the completed plan in the spring.

Q: How will we pay for this new plan?

A: We will continue to receive funding from the state. The difference is that local school districts such as ours have more flexibility in how we spend our dollars so that we can have the greatest positive impact on student success. A key element of the plan is the identification of resources with the plan and alignment of those resources to the goals established.

Q: Does the flexibility of the LCAP mean there is no more state oversight of the RUSD educational program?

A: No. While we will have more flexibility in creating programs that best fit our students’ needs, we still are accountable for ensuring that we meet priorities set by the state as well. The state has outlined eight priorities for school districts. These include: Student achievement; student engagement; positive school climate; provision of basic services; implementation of the Common Core Standards; course access; parental involvement and other positive student outcomes.

Q: How can I ensure the district prioritizes programs that are important to me and my child?

A: While the Board of Education will have to look at what is best for **all** students, the most important way to have your voice heard is to share your ideas with us at a community meeting or on this website. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same!