4 BIG UPGRADES TO CALIFORNIA’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Designed to fit together to help all students succeed.

California’s K-12 public schools are undergoing an ambitious remodeling project, with a focus on ensuring all students, no matter who they are or what their circumstance, graduate high school ready to succeed in higher education, careers, and in life.

All of these changes work together locally to give parents, students, educators and communities more of a say in the ways education funding is spent in their school district, how priorities are set, and the strategies used to meet the unique needs of all students.

1 HIGH LEARNING STANDARDS FOR ALL STUDENTS
California updated its K-12 education standards (what academic skills and knowledge we expect students to have) to ensure the state’s students graduate high school prepared to succeed in college and in future careers. To measure how students are doing against these standards, California also updated its assessments. The new assessments let parents and teachers know how well students are doing, as well as make adjustments to classroom instruction.

2 STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING
Your local school district now has greater flexibility to decide how to spend funding it receives from the state to focus on what should be done to support local student success. This new policy, called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), includes extra money to help improve services for students who need more support to achieve their full potential, like English learners, foster and homeless youth, and children living in poverty.

3 LOCALLY-CREATED PLANS FOR YOUR DISTRICT
To help your school district and school set priorities and decide how money for education will be spent, your district must create a plan that is updated every year, called the LCAP. Eight “priority areas” that are essential to student success guide the creation of this plan. Engaging the community (including parents, students, and educators) for their input is required.

4 MEASURING LOCAL PROGRESS
The California School Dashboard is a new tool to help you, your school, and district learn more about how well local schools serve all the different groups of students that make up your community. The Dashboard includes multiple measures to provide more detail on where differences may exist among student groups, and pinpoint where more attention, support and resources should be directed.
Working Together for High-Quality Education

This information is provided by the California Alliance for Continuous Improvement, a coalition whose members represent the full spectrum of the state, including teachers, administrators, parents, students, business, community advocates, school board members, researchers, philanthropy, institutions of higher education, and others.

The Alliance is committed to a vision for California of providing a high quality education for every student in every school and in every part of the state. The Alliance is a project of the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit cdefoundation.org/cde_programs/alliance-for-continuous-improvement/

What Families and Communities Need to Know

References

1 Learn more about CAASPP at California PTA’s website, capta.org/focus-areas/education/student-assessments/

2 You can learn more about these indicators at California PTA’s website, capta.org/focus-areas/lcflcap/priority-areas/

3 Visit the California School Dashboard at caschooldashboard.org