

Achieving Equity in the Local Control Funding Formula:

Concentration Grant Successes, Challenges, and
Strategies for for Improvement



The LCFF Concentration Grant: Progressive Funding Boost for the Greatest Need

- ▶ Acknowledges the challenges presented by larger concentrations of disadvantaged students
- ▶ Provides progressively greater amounts of funding to school district as their share of disadvantaged students increases above 55% of enrollment



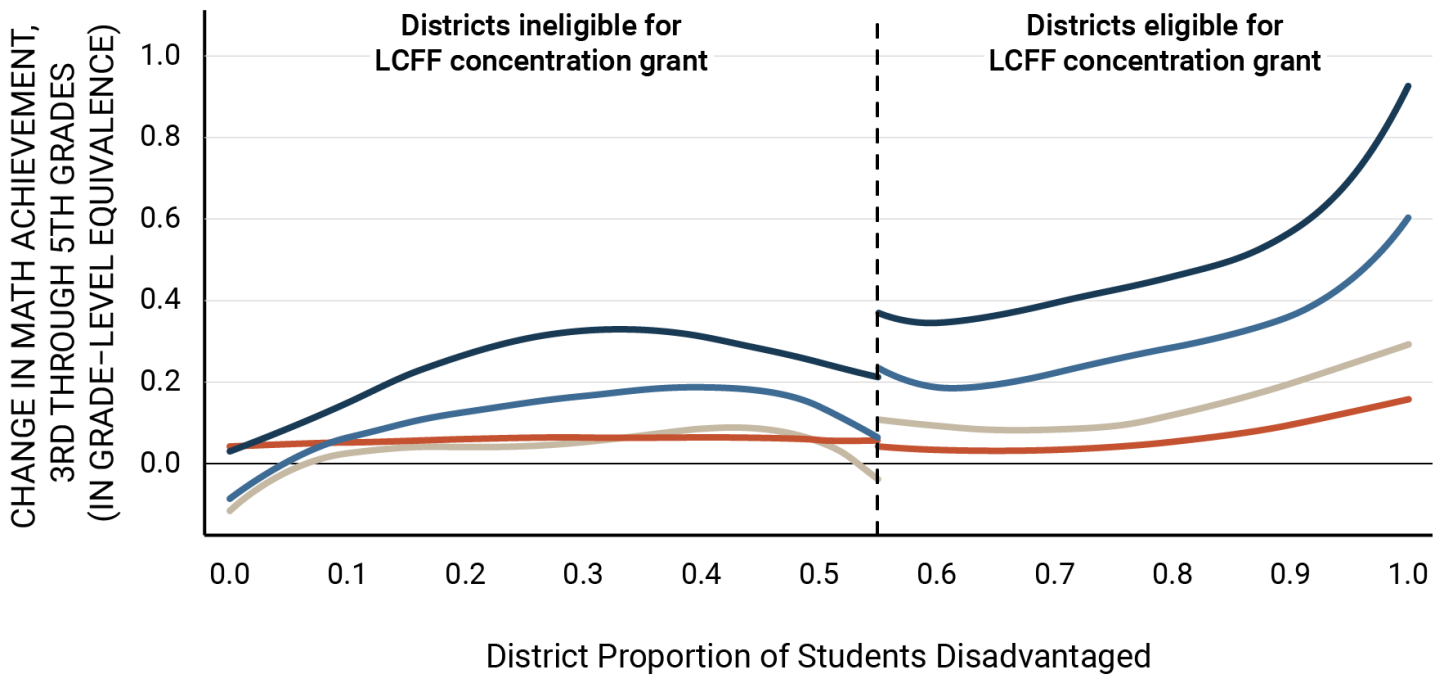
The Concentration Grant Has Achieved Desired Outcomes

- ▶ Students in school districts that received concentration grants experienced:
 - ❖ Significant improvements in math and reading achievement.
 - ❖ Significant increases in high school graduation rates.
- ▶ Improvements in student outcomes in school districts that received concentration grants grew as funding and length of exposure increased
- ▶ Instructional expenditures mattered most



Concentration grant's successes
highlight challenges in the
LCFF's fiscal design

Increase in Math Achievement Before and After LCFF, by Year, Grades 3 Through 5



- 2015 (relative to 2014)
- 2016 (relative to 2014)
- 2017 (relative to 2014)
- 2018 (relative to 2014)

Note: Lines represent the change in math achievement relative to 2014.
 Sources: Author analysis of data from the California Department of Education for 2014–2018 in the Standardized Account Code Structure and California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.



Opportunities for strengthening the LCFF's fiscal design

Continue Focus on Improving Outcomes for Students Who Require Additional Support

- ▷ Sustain improvements in outcomes for disadvantaged students
- ▷ Identify students who require additional support and target funding to meet their needs
- ❖ Nearly 1 out of every 5 California students that the LCFF targets for additional support are enrolled in school districts ineligible for concentration grants

Strategies for Strengthening the Fiscal Design of the LCFF

- ▶ Adjust the 55% threshold for concentration grant eligibility
 - ❖ Provide concentration grants to school districts with fewer than 55% disadvantaged students
 - ❖ Gradually reduce concentration grant rates for school districts below the 55% threshold as their share of disadvantaged students declines

Strategies for Strengthening the Fiscal Design of the LCFF (continued)

- ▶ Target additional funding to disadvantaged students in school districts ineligible for concentration grants
 - ❖ Increase the supplemental grant weight
 - ❖ Calculate supplemental grants based on the count of students in more than one group identified for additional funding