



Chapter 13:

You Are a Critical Part of Disrupting Our Funding Reality

The horrific shooting that occurred this week in Florida consumed our hearts and minds, and provided another tragic reminder that maintaining safety in today's society requires everyone's constant vigilance. It cannot be said enough: *If You See Something, Say Something*. Please know that school mental health supports are available for those who may need it, and that you can talk to your administrator to receive support.

Funding for California schools has been a recurring theme of the Employees' Connection, and ties directly to the issue of student safety. It takes resources, including mental health services and many others, to maintain safe and welcoming learning environments. The District will always prioritize student and staff safety, but investments in this area necessarily impact investments in other areas, since we have limited resources to allocate. As shared in previous chapters of the Employees' Connection, California [rank among the bottom of the 50 states in per-pupil spending](#); our [funding is slowing](#); and California's funding model [fails to account for the number of students with severe disabilities that we serve](#).

You are a critical part of disrupting these realities and ushering in an equitable funding system that is responsive to the actual needs of students and employees on the ground. The District is working with education groups across California to support legislation that would move the state closer to full funding for P-12 education, as well as legislation that would establish a new special education funding formula based on actual needs. It is projected that such legislation could be introduced as early as March 2018. If that happens, *your* advocacy will be absolutely essential to its success. Individually, the voices of educators resonate deeply in people's hearts and minds—when harmonized, our voices shake entire systems to their core.

As part of our collective acceleration toward fair school funding, the District met with a wide range of stakeholders this week to begin mobilizing our efforts. Elected officials, education interest groups, public agencies, civic partners, parent groups, labor partners, and foundations were all represented. Updates on these efforts will continue to be provided as we get closer to the potential introduction of legislative measures in the California State Legislature.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to maintaining safe learning environments, and to ensuring that all students receive the resources they need to succeed.

Vivian Ekchian
Interim Superintendent

Enjoying the Employees' Connection?
Click [here](#) to see past chapters.

lausd.net