



Chapter 5:

There's a Key Difference This Year— Funding is Slowing

The movement for fair school funding is underway. On November 14, the Board of Education unanimously passed a [Resolution](#) calling on California to significantly increase per-pupil funding. On December 12, the Board will consider strategies to enhance funding for students with disabilities and other students of need. Once strategies are adopted, we will provide specific ways that you can support these efforts, such as calling or writing our legislators.

This movement is essential, as our budget challenges remain deeply rooted and complex. You have likely heard the District report many times that we are facing significant budget shortfalls. This is true—educational funding shortfalls exist, and we remain 46th in per-pupil funding. We have continued to be fiscally solvent year after year because of deliberate decisions to implement difficult, but needed, budget reductions.

There's a key difference this year—funding is slowing. Following the 2007 recession, which resulted in severe budget cuts in education, Governor Brown promised schools that he would get them back to their pre-recession funding levels by 2021. Since 2013, the governor has honored this promise by providing one-time funding increases, which enabled us to meet our yearly expenses. However, the District is currently funded at 97 percent of our 2007 level, which means that we expect to receive only minor increases in the years ahead.

Returning to 2007 funding levels is far from adequate. As shared before, California [ranks near the bottom](#) of U.S. states in per-pupil funding, so merely returning to “normal” in California is not enough to meet the needs of all youth. The sheer number of students with severe disabilities alone has grown substantially in our district since 2007; yet, California [does NOT fund districts](#) based on the size or severity of their special education population. In this and

other areas, costs have risen since 2007 and are still rising. Therefore, bringing the District back to 2007 levels is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of 2017 and beyond. This funding gap is projected to grow rapidly in the years ahead.

The need for educational resources has never been more urgent.

L.A. Unified stands shoulder-to-shoulder with employees, labor partners, and community members to demand fair funding for our schools, while continuing to maximize our limited resources to invest in programs that help schools and communities thrive. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for specific actions you can take to support this movement.



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