

2014-15 Plan Implementation

While the plan addresses the implementation of planned actions and states very clearly the district’s next step for a given action, it does not clearly include assessments of the effectiveness of a specific action. We recommend the district include effectiveness statements which are reasonable, specific, transparent, and include metrics. The plan included a very clear description of stakeholder engagement and impact in the *Annual Update*.

Student Achievement

Once baseline scores have been identified, consider setting differentiated improvement targets on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results for those significant subgroups who have consistently struggled based on Romoland’s historic Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) data. Past results indicate that Hispanic students, English Learners, and Students with Disabilities have gaps in achievement. Closing the achievement gap and ensuring all students are prepared for college and career is a priority under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

In addition, the plan would be strengthened by **differentiating actions and outcomes for significant subgroups** who are underperforming or overrepresented in suspension and expulsion data. Most of the subgroup actions were for all subgroups. Consider strengthening actions by subgroup based on data and priorities. For example,

- With the exception of the White students, all other subgroups have a higher middle school dropout rate than the state average, with African American and Students with Disabilities exhibiting significant numbers. Students with Disabilities are also suspended at significantly higher rates than other students.

Metric	State Average	White	African American	Hispanic	English Learner	Low Income	Students w/ Disabilities
% of Romoland SD		21.4	4.4	68.8	25.8	72.5	9.3
% Middle School Dropout	.75	0.0	5.56	.78	1.39	1.15	2.56
% Suspension	4.36	4.68	3.39	3.88	4.28	4.56	7.49

Although the 2014-15 Title III accountability data was published after the LCAP was developed and approved by your local school board, we reviewed AMAO data according to the 2014-15 Title III Accountability Report as well as historic AMAO data. (See table below.) The data reveal Romoland has not met the target in AMAO 1 and AMAO 2a for the last three years. In 2014-15, an increase of 7 percent was achieved in AMAO 2b.

Romoland has a population that consists of 25.8 percent English Learners. Overall, the 2015-16 plan contains actions to improve achievement for English Learners; however, the evidence of the most recent data does not demonstrate the impact from previous actions that will ensure success for these students. Over the past three years, in most measures, the district performs below the target. The district plan would be strengthened by including specific, research-based actions targeted to accelerate growth for students as reflected by these data. In addition, particularly for English Learners, the district should identify formative measures of progress and intervene immediately if actions are not producing expected results. Finally, the district should review historic data to determine which strategies were implemented fully and produced the desired results so that these may be replicated to ensure success for all English Learners.

Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) Trends									
	AMAO 1			AMAO 2a (Less Than 5 Years Cohort)			AMAO 2b (5 Years or More Cohort)		
	RSD	Target	Met?	RSD	Target	Met?	RSD	Target	Met?
2014-2015	59.7%	60.5%	No	23.1%	24.2%	No	54.9%	50.9%	Yes
2013-2014	56.4%	59.0%	No	22.5%	22.8%	No	47.3%	49.0%	No
2012-2013	53.5%	57.5%	No	20.4%	21.4%	No	41.4%	47.0%	No

Monitoring Progress

In order to be responsive to those actions that are working or not working, consider developing a process to frequently assess the progress of each planned action and adjust as needed to ensure all goals are met. Identifying leading indicators for progress on goals that can be shared with stakeholders on a regular basis will increase the community commitment to the plan.

Additional Metrics to Consider

The purpose of the LCAP is to ensure that all students graduate from high school with the skills to be successful in both college and career. This work cannot wait until high school, nor can it be successful without more specific focus by grade level and by subgroup. Romoland is in the unique position to ensure that each student who enters high school is prepared for a rigorous curriculum.

A focus group was convened by the Riverside County Office of Education in 2014-15 to review research on K – 12 college readiness indicators and identify those that would align with the LCAP and have greatest impact. As a result of the focus group research, we recommend that LEAs consider additional college readiness indicators for various grades including but not limited to:

- Score of Level 3 or Level 4, “Standard Met” or “Standard Exceeded,” as indicated on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment in Reading and Mathematics at grades 3, 5, 8, and 11 by subgroup; (State Priority 4)
- Chronic absentee rates by grade level and subgroup at the following grades – Kindergarten, 1, 2; last grade of elementary (5 or 6); first grade of middle school (6 or 7); first grade of high school (9 or 10); (State Priority 5)
- Percent of students earning passing grades – C or better – in English and Mathematics at the exit grades from elementary (5 or 6) and middle school (8 or 9) by subgroup and gender; (State Priority 8)
- Suspension and expulsion rates by subgroup and gender for “disproportionality”; (State Priority 6)
- Percent of students failing two or more classes at grade 9 by subgroup and gender; (State Priority 8)

Describing Use of Supplemental and Concentration Grant Funds and Proportionality

The purpose of the LCAP *Section 3* is to ensure that all unduplicated and underperforming students receive increased or improved services in proportion to the increased funding received to serve those identified students in order for them to graduate from high school with the skills to be successful in both college and career.

In *Section 3A*, the justification for using funds districtwide and/or schoolwide should include a description of why this use of funds is most effective and why it is more effective than using the funds to target the students by subgroup in order to meet the district goals. Having a high population of unduplicated students is not in and of itself a justification for districtwide and/or schoolwide use. In addition, when funding is allocated to schools for schoolwide use, a description of how the district will ensure that the schools are implementing actions and that those actions are effective in meeting the district's goals in the eight state priority areas is necessary.

The description provided in *Section 3A* addresses each of the priority areas of the plan and provides a summary of the focus from *Section 2*.

In *Section 3B*, the district is asked to describe how services for the unduplicated students have increased or improved as compared to services provided to all students in proportion to the increase in funding received to serve those students. This is a cumulative process of increasing services until the district is fully funded.

The district's plan contains an excellent description. In order to enhance the plan, we recommend in *Section 3B* that the district broadly describe the services identified in the previous year(s) LCAP, and then describe those services being added in the current LCAP year, which is 2015-16. This demonstrates that the district is maintaining and building its support for unduplicated students proportionally each year and increases the transparency of the plan for the stakeholders. This will be important as, by 2020-21, this section will need to demonstrate that the district has increased or improved services to reflect 100 percent of its supplemental and concentration funds at full implementation.

Adopted Budget

In accordance with California Education Code (EC) Section 42127, our office has completed its review of the district's 2015-16 Adopted Budget to determine whether it complies with the criteria and standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) and whether it allows the district to meet its financial obligations for the 2015-16 fiscal year, as well as satisfy its multi-year financial commitments.

The district's adopted budget has been analyzed in the context of guidance provided by our office, based on the Governor's 2015-16 May Budget Revision. Based on our analysis of the information submitted, we approve the district's budget.

The following pages provide further details on the district's 2015-16 Adopted Budget. In addition to this analysis, current law as enacted through AB 2756 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2004) also requires the County Superintendent to review and consider any studies, reports, evaluations, or audits that may contain evidence a district is showing fiscal distress. Our office did not receive any such reports for the district

LCFF Gap Funding – For purposes of determining the potential gap funding increase, the district has estimated 53.08 percent for the 2015-16 fiscal year, 12.62 percent for 2016-17 and 18.24 percent for 2017-18. The district is utilizing lower projected LCFF gap percentages as their contingency plan should gap funding increases not materialize.

Unduplicated Pupil Percentage – The district reports an unduplicated pupil percentage of 74.37 percent for 2015-16, 73.94 percent for 2016-17 and 73.53 percent for 2017-18. The district's unduplicated pupil percentage included in the 2014-15 P2 certification by the California Department of Education is 74.92 percent.

Employee Negotiations – The district reports salary and benefit negotiations are complete with the certificated bargaining unit for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The agreement provided for a 4.0 percent increase

to the salary schedule effective July 1, 2015. An additional 1.0 percent increase in salary schedules took place after the 2015-16 state budget adoption.

The district reports salary and benefit negotiations continue with the classified bargaining unit for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Prior to entering into a written agreement, California Government Code (GC) Section 3547.5 requires a public school employer to publicly disclose the major provisions of a collective bargaining agreement, including but not limited to, the costs incurred in the current and subsequent fiscal years. The disclosure must include a written certification signed by the district superintendent and chief business official that the district can meet the costs incurred by the district during the term of the agreement. Therefore, please make available to the public and submit a disclosure to our office at least ten (10) working days prior to the date on which the governing board is to take action on a proposed agreement.

The district's adopted budget was developed prior to adoption of the 2015-16 Adopted State Budget. Actual state budget data should be reviewed and incorporated into the district operating budget and multi-year projections during the First Interim Reporting process.

During our review of the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan, we noted the following:

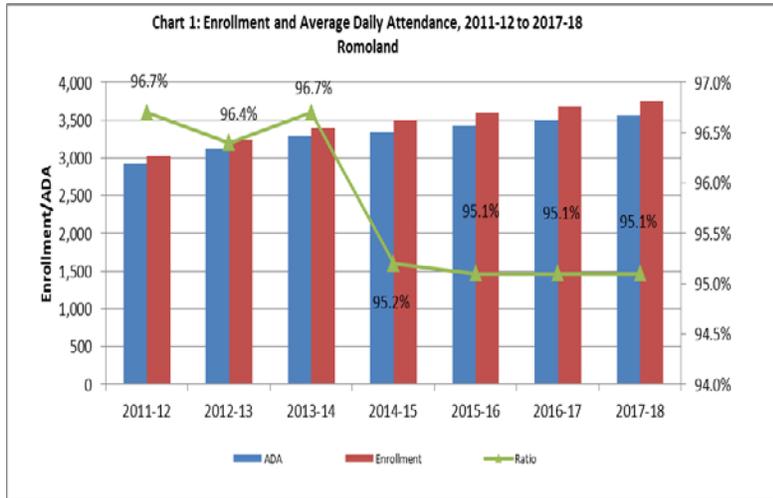
- Supplemental and Concentration (S&C) grant funding is included in the Local Control Funding Formula to increase and/or improve services to targeted student populations. It may be difficult for the district to meet the Minimum Proportionality Percentage at full implementation if S&C grant dollars have not been expended in each fiscal year to serve the targeted students who generated the funding.

Our office commends the district for its efforts thus far to preserve its fiscal solvency and maintain a quality education program for its students. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

2015-16 Adopted Budget Report

Romoland School District

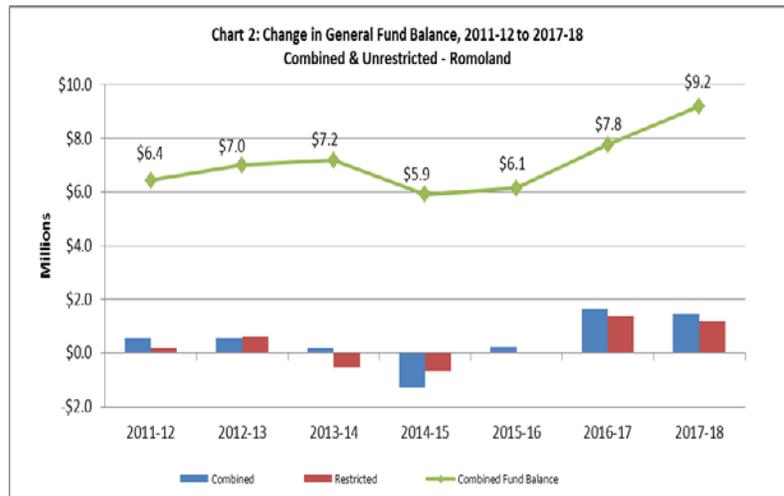
Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

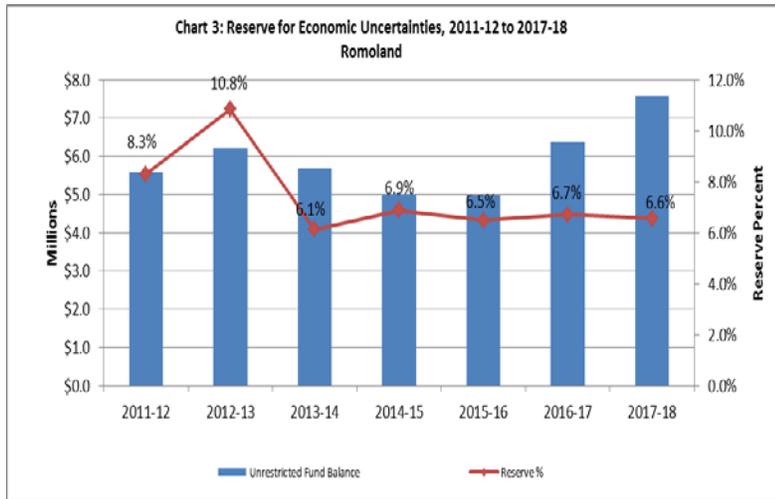


The district's projected ADA to enrollment ratio (capture rate) for 2015-16 is 95.1 percent, which is lower than the historical average ratio for the three prior fiscal years. The district estimates 3,431 ADA for the current fiscal year, or a 2.0 percent increase from the 2014-15 P-2 ADA. For 2016-17 and 2017-18, the district projects a 2.0 percent increase in each year. These projections appear reasonable based on the district's recent enrollment and ADA trends, as summarized in Chart 1.

Fund Balance

The district's Adopted Budget indicates a positive ending balance for all funds in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Chart 2 shows the district's deficit spending historical trends and projections.





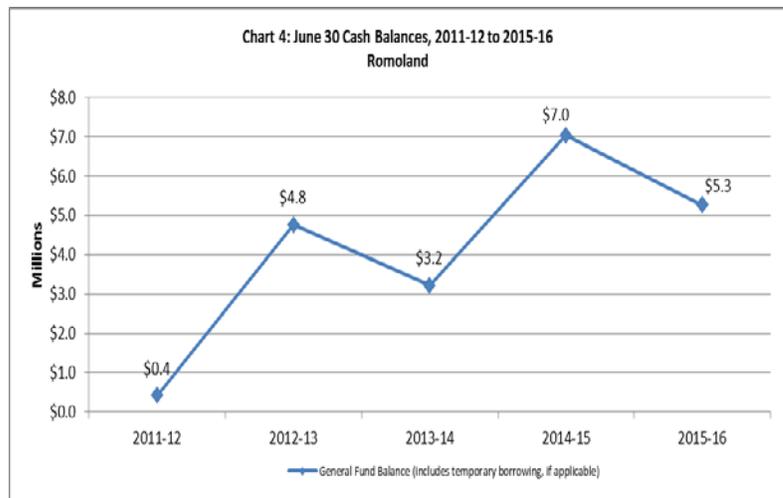
Reserve for Economic Uncertainties

The minimum state-required reserve for a district of Romoland School District's size is 3.0 percent; however the governing board requires the district maintain a 3.5 percent reserve for economic uncertainties. In light of the current fiscal environment, our office recommends districts maintain reserves higher than the minimum, and commends the district's board for this fiscally prudent practice. Chart 3 displays a summary of the district's

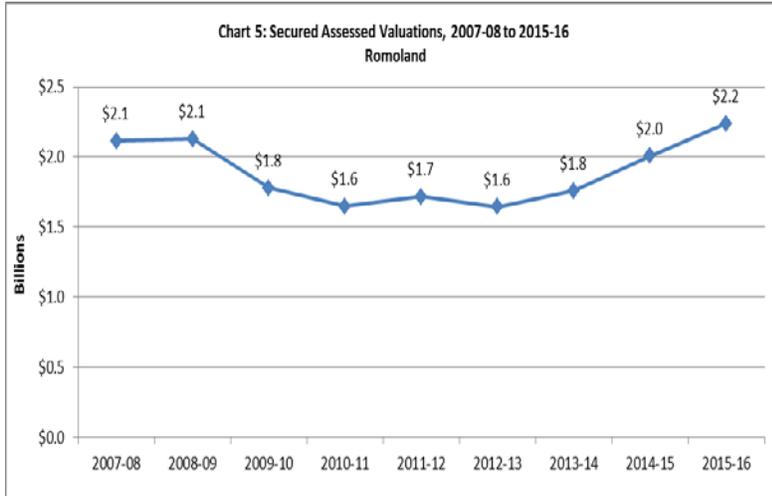
actual and projected unrestricted General Fund balance and reserves. The district projects to meet the minimum reserve requirement, and board required 3.5 percent reserve, in the current and two subsequent fiscal years.

Cash Management

Chart 4 provides a historical summary of the district's June 30th General Fund cash balance. Based on the budget's cash flow analysis, the district projects a positive General Fund cash balance of \$5.3 million as of June 30, 2016. This balance does not include any temporary borrowings, and the district's internal cash resources appear sufficient to address cash flow needs in the current year. Our office recommends the district continue to closely monitor cash in all funds to ensure sufficient resources are available. In addition, our office strongly advises districts to consult with legal counsel and independent auditors prior to using *Cafeteria Special Revenue Fund (Fund 13)* for temporary interfund borrowing purposes to remedy cash shortfalls.



Assessed Valuations



The Riverside County Assessor's Office has estimated secured assessed valuations will increase by 5.78 percent countywide in 2015-16. Chart 5 displays a historical summary of the district's secured property tax assessed valuations.