



**Riverside County
Board of Education**

Jeanie B. Corral

Ray "Coach" Curtis

Bruce N. Dennis

Barbara Hale

Susan J. Rainey, Ed.D.



Elizabeth F. Romero

Wendel W. Tucker, Ph.D.

DATE: September 14, 2017

TO: Ms. Jean Marie Fréy, District Superintendent
Mr. Jose "Pepe" Garcia, Board President
Ms. Francine M. Story, Chief Business Official
Mr. Jason Angle, Assistant Superintendent
Perris Elementary School District

FROM: Judy D. White, Ed.D., Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

BY: Teresa Hyden  Chief Business Official (951) 826-6790
Cynthia Glover Woods  Chief Academic Officer (951) 826-6648

SUBJECT: 2017-18 ADOPTED BUDGET and LCAP – APPROVAL

The County Superintendent of Schools is required to review and approve the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan or the annual update to an existing Local Control and Accountability Plan prior to the approval of the district's Adopted Budget [Education Code Section 42127(d)(2)].

Adopted Local Control and Accountability Plan

In accordance with California Education Code (EC) Section 52070, our office has completed its review of the district's 2017-18 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to determine whether it adheres to the guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE).

The district's adopted LCAP has been analyzed to determine whether:

- The plan adheres to the template adopted by the State Board of Education;
- The budget includes sufficient expenditures to implement the actions and strategies included in the plan, based on the projected costs included in the plan; and
- The plan adheres to the expenditure requirements for funds apportioned on the basis of the number and concentration of unduplicated pupils.

The district's adopted LCAP has been analyzed in the context of the guidance provided by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) and the California Department of Education (CDE). Based on our analysis, the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan for the 2017-18 fiscal year has been approved by the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools. Our goal is to further enhance the performance of students by providing feedback and inquiry questions that will support your refinement of the 2017-18 Local Control and Accountability Plan to close the achievement gap in metrics that impact student preparedness for college and career.

Student Achievement

The purpose of the LCAP is to ensure that all students graduate from high school with the skills needed to be successful in both college and career. Riverside County Office of Education conducted a review of research on K-12 college readiness indicators to identify those that would align with the LCAP purpose and have greatest impact. As a result of this research, we recommend that local educational agencies closely monitor the metrics listed in the data table below for all student groups.

Perris Elementary School District								
Metric	Year	State Average	White	African American	Hispanic	English Learner (EL)*	Low Income (LI)	Students w/ Disabilities (SWD)
% of Enrollment	2017		3.6	7.5	87.7	49.7	88.3	7.2
CAASPP – Grade 3 ELA % Met/Exceeded	2016	43	22	6	27	24	25	5
CAASPP – ELA % Met/Exceeded	2016	49	34.9	25.8	33.3	21.0	32.1	4.4
CAASPP – Math % Met/Exceeded	2016	37	29.9	13.2	21.2	14.9	20.2	6.3
CAASPP Distance from Level 3 – ELA	2016							
CAASPP Distance from Level 3 – Math	2016							
% Suspension	2016	N/A	4.5	7.7	2.3	2.1	2.9	6.6
% Chronic Absenteeism		N/A						
% EL Progress to English Proficiency	2016					26.0		
CAASPP – California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress CTE – Career Technical Education EAP – Early Assessment Program ELA – English Language Arts UC – University of California								

*CAASPP Distance from Level 3 English Learner Student Group includes four-year Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) students.

We offer the following commendations and inquiry questions to consider for the implementation of the 2017-18 Local Control and Accountability Plan and the refinement of the plan in the years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The district is to be commended for providing evidence of a strong connection between goals, data analysis, and actions and services throughout the plan. Utilizing the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Framework will enhance the district’s focus on the success of all students academically and behaviorally. There is evidence of the district utilizing innovative practices including trying new techniques to engage parents, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) summer camp, foster youth committee, and enrichment programs for students. In addition, the district is to be commended on the specific focus on teaching social emotional skills.

As the district continues to refine the MTSS system to support students in academic achievement, course access, and pupil engagement, please consider the following questions:

- How might the district refine the MTSS system to accelerate growth for Students with Disabilities and African American students in English language arts and math?
- How might the district create an ongoing monitoring system for key actions and goals for effectiveness throughout the year?
- How might the district refine the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) system to decrease the suspension rates for African Americans and Students with Disabilities?
- How might the district differentiate support for school sites in mathematics to increase the percent of students that meet and exceed standards?

Monitoring Progress

It is recommended that the district utilize a process that continually assesses the progress of each planned action and its effectiveness in achieving the expected annual measurable outcomes related to each goal specified in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Identifying leading indicators for progress on goals and developing a system to monitor those indicators throughout the year is encouraged. The information received from progress monitoring can support communication with stakeholders and provide information the district will need to clearly articulate, in the *Annual Update* section of the plan, the effectiveness of the planned actions/services.

To access resources and tools that will support future LCAP development, please go to <http://www.rcoe.us/educational-services/assessment-accountability-continuous-improvement/lcap-support/>.

Fiscal Recommendations

Supplemental and Concentration grant funding is included in the Local Control Funding Formula to increase and/or improve services to targeted student populations. If supplemental and concentration grant funds have been underinvested each fiscal year, it may be difficult for the district to demonstrate compliance with the LCFF spending regulations at full implementation.

During our review of the district's LCAP, we noted the following:

- Certain estimated actual expenditures identified in the *Annual Update* did not have a corresponding dollar amount. We recommended that all estimated actual expenditures include a dollar amount, even if zero. The district implemented our recommendation.
- Certain goals, actions, and services listed within the district's LCAP did not contain all related budget references. We recommended that all goals, actions, and services contain all required items in accordance with the LCAP template. The district implemented our recommendation.

Adopted Budget

In accordance with California Education Code (EC) Section 42127, our office has completed its review of the district's 2017-18 Adopted Budget to determine whether it complies with the criteria and standards adopted by the (SBE) and whether it allows the district to meet its financial obligations for the 2017-18 fiscal year, as well as satisfy its multi-year financial commitments.

Based on our analysis of the information submitted, we approve the district's budget, but note the following concerns:

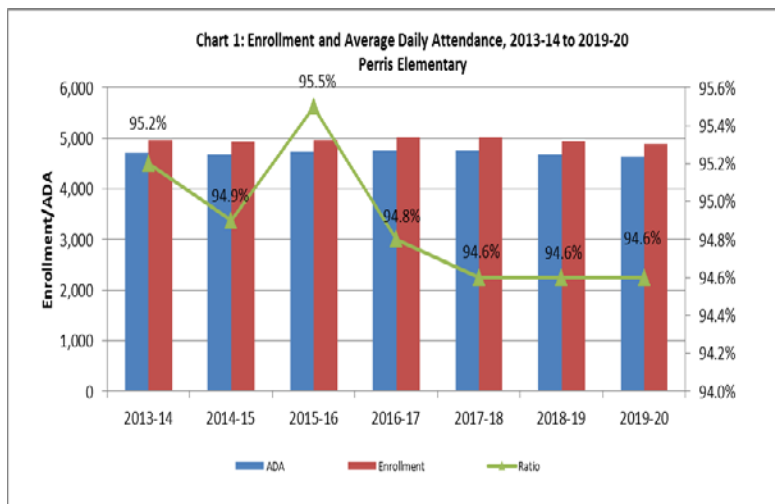
- *Operating Deficit* – Multi-year financial projections indicate a substantial General Fund operating deficit for the current and two subsequent fiscal years.

- *Declining Enrollment* – The district’s projections indicate flat enrollment for the current fiscal year and declining enrollment for the two subsequent years.

Assumptions and Other Considerations

The district’s Adopted Budget was developed prior to adoption of the 2017-18 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.

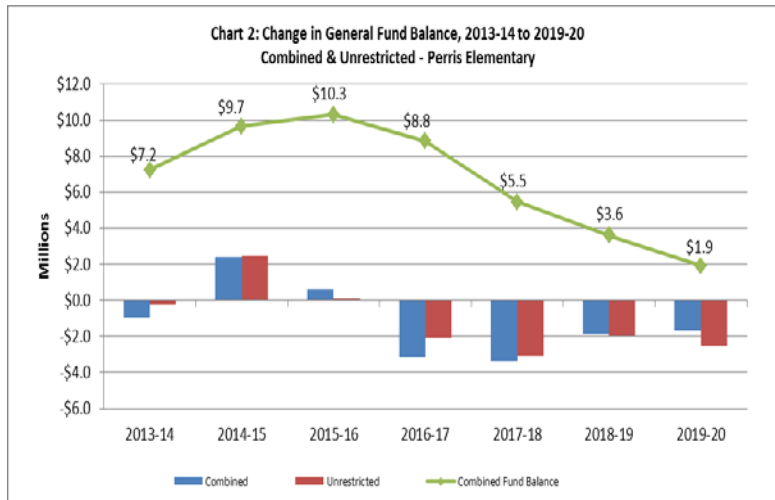
Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance (ADA) – The district’s projected ADA to enrollment ratio (capture rate) for 2017-18 is 94.6 percent, which is within the historical average ratio for the three prior fiscal years. The district estimates 4,760 ADA for the current fiscal year, or relatively no change from the 2016-17 P-2 ADA. For 2018-19 and 2019-20, the district projects a 1.7 and 0.9 percent decrease in ADA each year, respectively.



Unduplicated Pupil Percentage – The district reports an unduplicated pupil percentage of 92.56 percent for 2017-18, 92.14 percent for 2018-19, and 92.14 percent for 2019-20. The district’s unduplicated pupil percentage included in the 2016-17 P-2 certification by the California Department of Education was 92.13 percent.

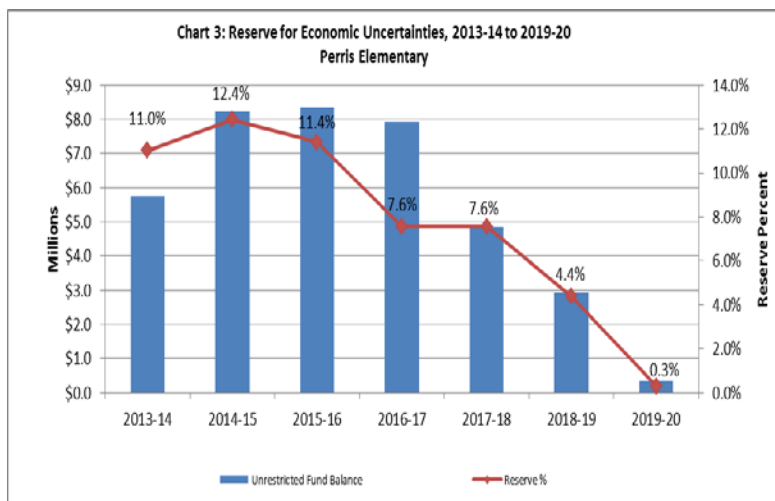
LCFF Gap Funding – For purposes of determining the potential gap funding increase, the district has estimated 43.97 percent for the 2017-18 fiscal year, 71.53 percent for 2018-19, and 73.51 percent for 2019-20. The district will evaluate and reduce expenditures as necessary should gap funding increases not materialize.

Fund Balance – The district’s Adopted Budget indicates a positive ending balance for all funds in the 2017-18 fiscal year. However, for the General Fund, the district anticipates expenditures and uses will exceed revenues and sources by \$3.3 million in 2017-18, \$1.9 million in 2018-19, and \$1.7 million in 2019-20. Chart 2 shows the district’s deficit spending historical trends and projections.

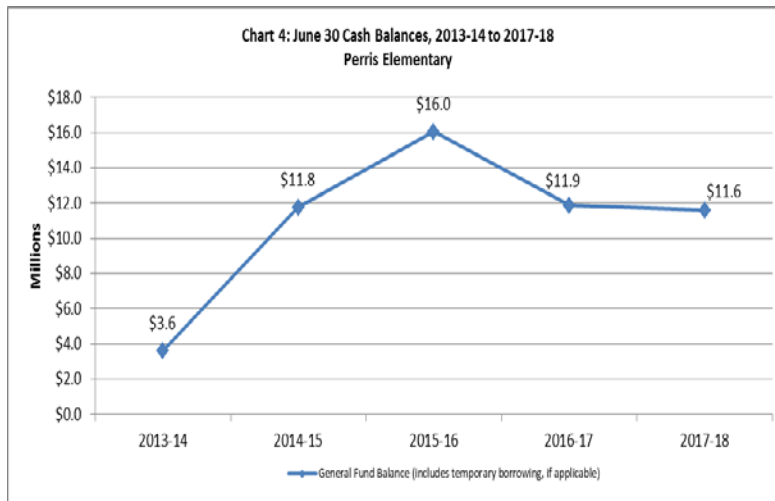


Employee Negotiations – As of the board date, June 15, 2017, the district reports salary and benefit negotiations are complete with both the certificated and classified bargaining units for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Both agreements provided for 1.0 percent salary schedule increase effective July 1, 2017. For the 2017-18 school year, the district calendar increased from 184 days to 185 days for certificated bargaining unit members. The additional day shall be used as a professional development day, resulting in an increase to the salary schedule by 0.54 percent.

Reserve for Economic Uncertainties – The minimum state-required reserve for a district of Perris Elementary School District’s size is 3.0 percent; however the governing board requires the district maintain a 5.0 percent reserve for economic uncertainties. 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 in the current and first subsequent fiscal year; however, the projections indicate the district will not meet the minimum reserve requirement in the 2019-20 fiscal year. Projections also indicate the district will not meet the board required reserve in the two subsequent fiscal years.

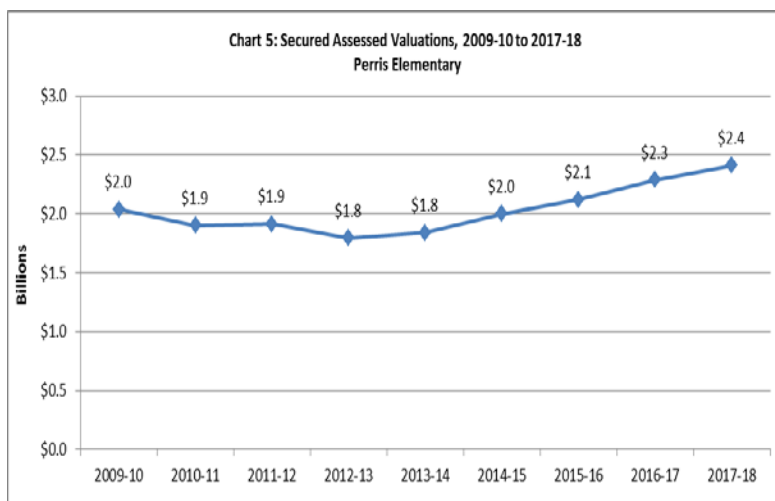


Cash Management – Chart 4 provides a historical summary of the district’s June 30th General Fund cash balance. Based on the budget’s cash flow analysis, the district projects a positive General Fund cash balance of \$11.6 million as of June 30, 2018. This balance does not include any temporary borrowings, 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)* and *Building Fund (Fund 21)* for temporary interfund borrowing purposes to remedy cash shortfalls.



AB 2756 – Current law, as enacted through AB 2756 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2004), 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.

Assessed Valuations – The Riverside County Assessor’s Office has estimated secured assessed valuations will increase by 5.53 percent countywide in 2017-18. Chart 5 displays a historical summary of the district’s secured property tax assessed valuations.



Conclusion

As the State rapidly approaches full implementation of the LCFF, it is vital that districts exercise sound fiscal judgement and remain cognizant of the rapidly changing environment in which we currently operate. Districts should maintain cautious regard when planning future programs and preparing multi-year financial projections. Our office is committed to supporting districts in maintaining quality educational programs, while preserving fiscal solvency. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.