

# AB 1948

## Re-Examining Equity in TK-12 Funding

Assemblymember  
**Phil Ting**  
19TH DISTRICT



### SUMMARY

AB 1948 would set new targets for the State's local control funding formula (LCFF) and require California to re-examine our "proxy" for student need.

### BACKGROUND

The LCFF is a primary source of funding for school districts and charter schools. It provides base funding by student, with additional funding for students with higher needs. California allocates this funding to schools based on their average daily attendance.

The LCFF was adopted in 2013-14, to reflect the costs to meet student education needs, and the State established family poverty, dual language learner status (DLL), and foster youth status as proxies for greater student needs. However, the LCFF poverty rate does not accurately reflect real poverty in California. The current rate is 185 percent of the federal poverty rate, which equates to merely \$49,000 for a family of four. LCFF also only allows students to be counted once for higher funding – an "unduplicated" count.

The LCFF does not account for unhoused youth, which has risen nearly 50 percent in the last decade, according to UCLA's Center for the Transformation of Schools' 2020 report. The report found more than 269,000 California students in TK-12 were unhoused by the end of the 2018-19 school year, with a disproportionate impact on Latinx and Black students. Researchers also note that housing insecurity and poverty lead to higher absences and lower graduation rates, and those students are less likely to be prepared for college.

The achievement gaps among youth of color and from disadvantaged communities significantly affects student outcomes. Given the LCFF currently counts only one student characteristic, and uses a low poverty measure, the formula can mask severe poverty and impact the level of services provided to our most vulnerable youth. In order to best meet students' needs, California must re-examine the equity and adequacy of how the state funds school districts and charter schools.

### THIS BILL

AB 1948 will change the way child poverty is measured in order to provide more funds to all our schools. Specifically, the bill considers a revised LCFF unduplicated pupil definition that would:

- Count our unhoused students,
- County poverty, foster, and homelessness status in an duplicated way, and
- Raise the poverty threshold from federal school meals to a level closer to California's CalGrant eligibility levels: 250 percent federal poverty level (\$66,000 for a family of four).
- Increase the LCFF base funding for all students by 10.66% - double the proposed COLA.

### SUPPORT

### STAFF CONTACT

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