



East Whittier Education Association

Budget Bites 2022-2023, Issue 3

The first two issues of Budget Bites provided basic foundational information regarding the underlying conditions for negotiating a double-digit salary increase. Since the publication of issue two, a slide presentation of the 2022 budget for EWCS D was included at the September 12th school board meeting. This issue is a response to that presentation.

The slide presentation being referenced can be found as a PDF on the EWCS D website, in the Board of Education tab, the Board Presentations link, or you can use this link:

<https://4.files.edl.io/553c/09/13/22/172654-df875733-30c3-4697-934c-ae7af4a5deeb.pdf>

Remember the 12.84% number mentioned in *Budget Bites, Issue One*? Now the State has **increased** EWCS D's LCFF funding from 12.84% to **13.7%**, due to the way the amount has been compounded.

What does this mean for us?

Certificated employees get paid out of LCFF funding, so that increase should be applied directly to our salary. Certificated salary is a line item in the LCAP. Every line item mentioned in the LCAP receives the 13.7% increase to its budget. Therefore, our ask only affects the certificated salary line item. **The other areas of the LCAP will still get their 13.7% increase.**

At the September 12th board meeting, the implication was made that if the District agreed to the salary increase proposed by eWEa, that class sizes could go up, and the District could lose intervention programs, along with the staff running those programs. This thinly veiled threat holds no merit. The intervention programs they referenced were *designed* to be temporary because they were financed by one-time COVID relief funds. At the time when the District received the funding and the programs were implemented, Board member Urteaga specifically said that we should understand that the programs and positions are temporary, so we should expect to lose them after two years. This is the second year. We are *scheduled* to end those programs *regardless* of what the salary increase is.

In any case, there are still millions of dollars of one-time funding available from the state, in addition to the increase of 13.7% to LCFF funding, that could allow these programs to continue, if the District feels the programs are worthwhile. And let's not forget the **over \$35 million sitting in funds 1 and 17**: as mentioned in *Budget Bites, Issue Two*, public schools are not for-profit entities, so how is the District spending *this* money to open the door to every child's future?

Last year, we got a raise based on the state increase to LCFF funding, *and the District's budget was not adversely affected*. In fact, the District was still able to increase their ending fund balances. We are simply asking to receive the state increase that LCFF is receiving this year.

This shouldn't have to be such an arduous process; it reduces us to having to beg for what is rightfully ours. Such a process perpetuates a paternalistic District-employee relationship that is counterproductive to the idea of every employee being a valued member of EWCS. We don't need a Daddy; we need a partner in making East Whittier City School District a place where families want to send their children, and the best and brightest talent want to work.

Support our bargaining team. Support your own future. The next school board meeting is Monday, September 26th, at 6:00 p.m. Attend in person at the Dorothy F. Fagan Education Center, or via livestream on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/EastWhittierCitySchoolDistrict>

Be educated; stay informed.

Kelly Sunada, eWEa Organizing Chair

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