

**Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office
2017-18 Local Accountability Plan Stakeholder Questions & Answers**

1. Do Local Control (LCFF) funds have to be shifted from one priority to another in order to fund suggested services or can those services be grant funded?

KCSOS programs and school districts are required to increase and/or improve services each year to meet the Minimum Proportionality Percentage (MPP). However, there is local control on how our programs meet that requirement. As enrollment declines, so does funding. Therefore, some services that were previously considered part of the “base” program may need to be shifted to supplemental and concentration funds to assist the program with meeting the MPP requirement. The Alternative Education program has been actively involved in applying for and receiving several grants and that continues to be an effective way to fund some of the services that benefit students.

2. Kern High School District (KHSD) recently entered in to a partnership with CSUB that is designed to assist graduates from KHSD gain entry in to CSUB. Has KCSOS considered a similar partnership with universities?

KCSOS meets regularly with CSUB and our local community colleges to help transition students to higher education. Through various programs and opportunities such as Cash for College, Dual Enrollment, College Readiness Block Grant, and Odysseyware A-G course access, Alternative Education students have the opportunity to complete financial aid forms, earn college credits while enrolled in high school, visit college campuses throughout the state, and enroll in rigorous courses approved by the University of California. Ensuring that all students that enter Alternative Education are properly evaluated and placed into a rigorous curriculum that will open up these opportunities to them after high school is critical. Only through exposure to these types of classes and programs can the students of Alternative Education thrive beyond high school.

3. Can KCSOS partner with businesses and colleges in Tulare County in order to better meet the needs of the students served at North Kern Community School?

Yes. It is the primary focus of KCSOS to meet the needs of all students enrolled in the Alternative Education program. Administration continues to work on strategies to improve and increase services for all students, including those in outlying areas such as Delano, Taft, and Mojave. Some of those strategies include improved collaboration with referring districts, private industry and probation departments outside of Kern County as well as post-secondary educational institutions.

4. Are LCFF funds distributed by school site or by program (Court and Community)? What happens to funds that are not spent that fiscal year?

LCFF funds are generated by Average Daily Attendance (ADA) in combination with the percentage of students that are English learners, Foster Youth, and/or socioeconomically disadvantaged in the Alternative Education program (Court and Community School combined). Budgetary decisions are made based on a combination of stakeholder input through feedback opportunities such as the LCAP survey and identified needs of students. It is acknowledged that different school sites have different needs based on the student population and location of the campus. All funds are allocated to each site based on the unique needs of that particular site.

In regards to unspent funds, each district must meet the Minimum Proportionality Percentage (MPP) demonstrating a certain level of increased and improved services. If that percentage is not met in a given year, those funds are used to increase the MPP for the subsequent year.

5. Students have expressed interest in the visual and performing arts. Will KCSOS offer those types of opportunities during the afterschool program?

Students and parents of Alternative Education have communicated an interest in the visual and performing arts. One aspect of the afterschool program that continues to be a focus is the implementation of activities that the students have communicated are of high interest to them. Currently, work is being done to offer programs such as the Mobile Recording Studio through the Boys and Girls Club. Furthermore, the program is seeking interested staff to participate in the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) committee to begin to develop various opportunities for Alternative Education students including music and theatre.

6. What is the future of the Alternative Education program in Kern County? What is the future of Alternative Education throughout the state?

The focus of the Alternative Education Program in Kern County will continue to be to offer the best program possible to the students and their families. Educating the whole child will also continue to be a priority as the social and emotional development of a student has a direct impact on their academic success. Legislatively, the recent trend has been to implement strategies at local districts to reduce suspensions and expulsions, which has reduced the number of students being served in Alternative Education programs throughout the state. KCSOS has a strong partnership with the districts in the county and will work to ensure that all students are receiving the services they require whether at their district of residence or in our programs.

Like Kern County, many counties throughout the state are experiencing declining enrollment and are responding accordingly. This is a time of opportunity to continue to be innovative and to create the types of programs that result in high student achievement paired with the social and emotional supports necessary for students in Alternative Education programs.