



**El Centro Elementary School District – Local Control and Accountability Plan
Community Input – Questions/Comments and District Superintendent Responses**

Please keep in mind these are questions/comments raised during our LCAP planning sessions with our EL/Migrant parents only, and do not reflect other groups that have been involved in the process. Responding to questions/comments raised by this group is a requirement of the LCAP and the Local Control Funding Formula. Thank you to those who participated.

Priority – Implementation of Common Core Standards

Goal 1 – By 2016-17, to ensure El Centro Elementary School District successful student achievement on Common Core State Standards Assessments, the District will adopt technology resource standards and complete an equitable distribution of technology resources at all district facilities.

1. Any way to invest in classroom computers that actually work? How about access to handhelds in school for lower grades?

The School Board recently took action to provide almost \$300,000 for new devices for our schools through the Common Core State Standards Implementation Program. The devices purchased with these funds will be going to school sites for classroom deployment. As more funding becomes available we will continue to invest in classroom technology to ensure each child has access to a device. Additionally our technology department has identified a lower cost solution (using “thin clients”) to bring our computers up to date (compared to new device pricing) and will be working at school sites to begin the updating process.

2. How about a check out program for students to check out computers to take home?

While we would like to be at a place where we can check out computers, our immediate goals are to ensure adequate site based devices that teachers can use with their students.

3. How can these goals be accomplished at a sufficient level? *We are in the first year of a multi-year plan. The funding, while more than we have experienced in many years, is still inadequate to meet all our needs. It will take a great deal of creativity and cooperation for our technology goals to be met.*

4. We need more training for teachers on how to use tech. *This is true. As we move forward, we will be providing more training as needs are identified. This will be especially true as we adopt new curricular programs which heavily use technology.*

5. We need more support at District level. *The budget next year, as proposed, will contain funds for additional technology support. As our inventory of devices and software grows, so does our need for qualified technicians and Ed tech specialists.*

6. Can the computer lab center be made available after school? *Individual school sites can currently make this determination based on after school funding and appropriate staff availability.*

Priority – School Climate

Goal 2 – By 2016-17, El Centro Elementary School District will decrease the number of discipline referrals by 200 per year in order to decrease the rate of suspensions and expulsions and nurture a safe and positive school environment.

1. We need more staff that can support services: truancy/guidance counselors. Bring a program into the classrooms for students and parents to help educate about attendance.

Through the LCAP planning process, this has been a recurring theme. The budget, as of this point, for the next school year, will have additional funds for more counseling positions.

Priority – Implementation of Common Core Standards

Goal 3 – By 2016-17, all students will have access to the Common Core State Standards aligned materials in English language arts, social studies, and science as measured by the Resolution of Instructional Materials and the Williams Report.

1. We need teacher workshops and training in reading and math. *The District has been providing ongoing training in language arts and will be providing extensive math training in conjunction with our new adopted math program.*
2. Need materials in Spanish and English. *Materials are offered in Spanish as needs are identified. All materials are provided in English.*
3. Need more exposure to ConnectEd. *ConnectEd is one program associated with McGraw-Hill, a textbook company. While it has many applications associated with it, we will be concentrating on implementing the software/programs associated with whichever textbook the District adopts.*
4. We need parent training and support to help them understand how to partner up and help at home. *Agreed. We will be providing many opportunities in the next year for parents to learn how to work with the schools in a productive manner and assist their child's teacher to enhance learning.*

Priority – Basic Services

Goal 4 – By 2016-17, all district facilities will have a rating of “Good” in every category as measured by the Facilities Inspection Tool (FIT) and Williams Reports for schools in order to ensure a sense of a safe and orderly environment.

1. Painting and upkeep the bathrooms – tiles are old and really odorous. *The District master plan for facilities is in process and will provide a timeline for repairs and both major and minor projects. This summer several schools will be painted either inside or outside. As for the bathrooms, these are considered a major expense and we will be*

awaiting word from the state as to whether or not funds will be provided for these types of projects. In the meantime, we will be working to improve our cleaning processes and continue to make sure our restrooms are cleaned on an ongoing basis.

2. Groundskeepers are needed. *Currently we have an outstanding grounds keeping crew that, while small, does an excellent job. Funding availability will directly affect whether or not we could hire additional groundskeepers.*
3. Soccer fields need to really be maintained. *All of our fields could use some work and when are able to increase our grounds keeping staff we will be able to address grooming these fields more often.*

Priority – Pupil Engagement

Goal 5 – By 2016-17, El Centro Elementary School District's State Reporting Average Daily Attendance will be 98% thereby decreasing the number of School Attendance Review Board (SARB) referrals and increasing student engagement.

1. Teleparent phone calls are not getting through because the phone numbers are not up to date – need system to have accurate numbers on file. *As this is a fairly new system, there is a need to remind parents to provide accurate numbers and to have staff input those numbers upon receipt. We will continue to remind staff and monitor that this is taking place.*
2. We need to have more personnel and curriculum on importance of attendance to use to train families. *Agreed. This will be addressed in the coming year as attendance continues to be a priority.*
3. How about training and guest speakers that will explain to parent the importance of attendance. *Great ideas that will be explored for either district-wide or school-based implementation.*
4. Report card should have a section of missed assignments. *We will make sure our report committee considers this idea.*
5. Perhaps they could have a district-wide award or recognition for the behavior and the attendance; perhaps a free dress day. *While schools sites promote heavily the importance of good attendance and provide incentives, I will consider an appropriate district wide program.*
6. There is a problem in Kinder because parents don't think Kinder is important. *I think most parents consider Kinder to be VERY important. Many of our kinder absences are due to illness as the children are exposed to various viruses as they mingle with a large number of students – sometimes for the first time. We work with those kinder parents who we note are not having valid excuses for absences.*

Priority – Student Achievement

Goal 6 – By 2016-17, El Centro Elementary School District will develop and implement a Common Core State Standard based report card and clear standard based grading practices for all schools in the district.

1. Use a common set of grades that are based on percentages.

2. Parents should have tools to translate how the system works and what the students is being grades on.
3. Computerized/digitized report card.
4. Weekly progress reports that need to be signed.

These are all great ideas that will be passed along to those involved in developing new report cards next year. The District will be working to align the report cards to the new textbooks and standards as they are being implemented.

Priority – Course Access

Goal 7 – By 2016-17, El Centro Elementary School District will adopt a course of study for grades 1-6 and 7-8 as per Ed Code 51210 and 51220 respectively as measured by the master schedules and CMIS report.

1. Start music in a zero period in elementary so they don't miss core. *While the high school district currently does have zero period, we do not due to budgetary restrictions and the number of our students who are bused each day. Our programs are held during the school day so that the maximum number of students can participate. If we were to have our music programs only before school, many, many students would be excluded due to transportation issues.*
2. Hire an art teacher. *This is an idea that is looked at annually and when the budget allows us to add more subject areas, it will be included in a list of considerations, along with P.E. teachers, technology teachers, etc.*
3. Reorganize our instructional day. *Without more information on the writer's intent, I can't address this comment.*
4. Provide more Rosetta Stone. *There are many, many effective second language programs available and we will be exploring a District-wide possibility on this comment as it is a need that is constantly brought up.*

Priority – Parent Engagement

Goal 8 – By 2016-17, the El Centro Elementary School District will offer at least 1 parent training per quarter.

1. Help parents to understand the CCSS Send out materials that parents can read at home with possible further information on the web. *In the fall, we will be providing parents with presentations on the Common Core State Standards as well as sending home education bulletins on its implementation.*
2. Where can parents have access to computers? *I am not sure what this is alluding to and will need more information to respond.*
3. How about having programs that require a parent log of parent service/participation? *We cannot require parents to attend a designated number of hours, but we will discuss this with our principals/staff to see if we can come up with some incentives for parents who log a certain number of hours – great idea!*
4. How about parent nights that pay stipends to teachers to come back at night to teach parents how to work with their children. *As we work on next year's budget, we will see*

if we can fund a night or two at each school site, as I think this would be a great way to help parents help their children.

5. Perhaps some parents can support the school by helping out at home and/or volunteering in classrooms. *Both these options are available for parents now. If you would like to help, contact your child's teacher. It is possible they could have you preparing homework packets, art projects, etc at home if that is how you would like to volunteer. Of course, in class volunteers are welcome as well, and your child's teacher or principal can work with you on that.*

Priority – Other Data

Goal 9 – By 2016-17, El Centro Elementary School District will improve articulation with the High School in order to increase the number of students who enter High School ready for higher-level math and AVID programs and Honors classes as freshman.

1. Articulation between teachers at all levels is needed. *Agreed. We will keep this in mind as we set our professional development program calendar for the next school year.*
2. Early access to colleges such as field trips to colleges for students can see the campus and get excited about college. *This is provided to many students through various programs, but we will work with our middle schools to see about expanding these opportunities.*
3. Career day – big fair for Junior High. *Our junior highs currently do this, but it can be expanded to include a broader range of career options.*
4. How about having speakers who went to the school come back and talk about their journey to success. *Great idea. I would encourage you to contact a principal about someone you think would fit this idea.*
5. We need a computer teacher that will teach graphics and skills and programs that help keep the children up to date. *As technology is constantly changing, the need for computer skills is a must. As our budget allows we will consider adding technology teachers to our staff.*

Priority – School Climate

Goal 10 – By the 2016-2017 school year, break-ins at school sites will have decreased to fewer than 5 break-ins per year.

1. We need cameras and more lighting. *We have been adding cameras to those areas of our schools where we have had vandalism/break-ins and theft. Additionally, we have added them where our office staff cannot see the front entrance to the school. We will continue to identify areas of need and will address each situation as it comes up. Lighting has been added to some schools and this summer additional lighting will be added to Sunflower's parking lot.*
2. Reduce access to student areas by adults. *During the past year, we have narrowed down the number of access points for adults to enter a campus. Usually only one point of access is available. We rely on staff to identify and redirect adults on campus who have*

not complied with our office sign-in procedures. We will continue to work on this process on a regular basis.

3. Create a safety hotline phone number. *I'm not sure how feasible this is, but we will discuss it to see if there is a way to provide such a service. The El Centro Police Department has been very responsive to calls from our school sites.*
4. Hire a law enforcement person to help out. *Through our partnership with the City of El Centro and the ECPD, we do have a dedicated School Resource Officer.*
5. Hire more noon duty staff. *We are looking into the need for more hall monitors/duty staff at our sites. Typically, we use a staff/student ration that determines how many personnel are needed, but when special needs are pointed out we analyze the situation and add staff as needed.*

Priority – Student Achievement

Goal 11 – By 2016-17, El Centro Elementary School District will investigate, choose and implement specific strategies district-wide to ensure Socio-Economically Disadvantaged (SED), English Learners, and foster youth students to increase achievement.

1. We need more computer programs to help build language for EL learners and low SED students. *As we add more technological devices to our schools we will have greater capacity to use software to enhance services. Some school sites have implemented these types of programs and we are looking to find effective programs that could be utilized District-wide.*
2. Teachers need a refresher in English Learner strategies. *We will definitely include EL strategies in our District-wide Professional Development Program calendar next year.*
3. Puma Rosa and Star fall are free language building programs. *Thank you. We will look into these.*