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Ask SSC . . . When Will We Receive the Educator Effectiveness Program Apportionment?

Q. The 2015-16 Budget Act provides an appropriation of \$500 million for professional development, sometimes referred to as Educator Effectiveness program funds. When can my district expect to receive its Educator Effectiveness apportionment and are there conditions that we must meet to receive the funds?

A. You're correct that the 2015-16 State Budget includes \$500 million for teacher and administrator professional development and network management training. Of that amount, \$490 million will be distributed to local educational agencies (LEAs) for "educator effectiveness" on a per certificated staff basis using fiscal year 2014-15 staffing data. School districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and state special schools are eligible to receive this funding.

The California Department of Education (CDE) anticipates that it will apportion the funds to LEAs in December 2015 and March 2016. Furthermore, the CDE plans to publish certified funding amounts, including the rate per certificated staff, within the next few weeks so that LEAs can begin to prepare the expenditure plan that is required as a condition of receiving funds. LEA funding amounts will be determined by a 2014-15 count of certificated staff reported through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement System (CALPADS).

LEAs are required to do both of the following as a condition of receiving funds:

1. Develop and adopt an expenditure plan, which must be explained during a public meeting of the governing board prior to its adoption at a subsequent meeting; and
2. Provide a detailed expenditure report to the CDE on or before July 1, 2018, that includes an accounting of specific purchases made and the number of teachers, administrators, and/or paraprofessionals who received professional development. The CDE will determine the format of this expenditure report.

LEAs are authorized to spend Educator Effectiveness funds over three fiscal years beginning in 2015-16 through 2017-18. In addition to the required expenditure report, Educator Effectiveness funds are subject to an LEA's annual independent audit and are restricted to any of the following purposes:

- Beginning teacher and administrator support and mentoring, including programs that support new teacher and administrator ability to teach or lead effectively and to meet induction requirements adopted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing;
- Professional development, coaching, and support services for teachers who have been identified as needing improvement or additional support;
- Professional development for teachers and administrators that is aligned to state-adopted content standards; and
- To promote educator quality and effectiveness that may include training on mentoring and coaching certificated staff to support effective teaching and learning.

Services provided through this state-funded program are intended to be coordinated with the use of federal Title II funds that may be received by an LEA to support teachers and administrators.

The budget also allocates \$10 million of this \$500 million appropriation to the K-12 High Speed Network for the purpose of providing professional development and technical assistance to LEAs related to network management.

—*Patti Herrera and Michael Ricketts*

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