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**EdVoice Applauds Parents and Community Groups who Fought to Expose LAUSD’s
Illegal Accounting and Spending of Targeted LCFF Money**

SACRAMENTO, CA – After a lawsuit was filed in July, 2015 and a formal complaint was filed with the California Department of Education (CDE) on September 9, 2015, state officials have finally ruled that the Los Angeles Unified School Districts (LAUSD) must correct the erroneous accounting and misuse of \$450 million of funds intended for low-income, English learners, and foster youth students for general education purposes.

Nine months after the initial complaint was filed by the Community Coalition of South Los Angeles and LAUSD parent Reyna Frias, CDE officials finally agreed that LAUSD had diverted funds intended for high need students in violation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the state’s new education finance reform law. The complaint by parents filed under the Uniform Complaint Procedure (UCP) was initially denied by both LAUSD and the Los Angeles County Office of Education at the recommendation of local bureaucrats that supported the practice. The parents alleged that LAUSD was inappropriately reducing its obligation toward high need students by crediting itself every year for \$450 million spent on special education services that were actually part of the district’s basic educational program. The UCP process mandates the state to investigate the allegations and in doing so CDE was forced to acknowledge the facts and order the district to halt its illegal practice.

“The order supports the plain English of the law requiring extra LCFF dollars be used to ensure low-income students, English learners, and foster youth receive equitable access to a quality public education,” said Bill Lucia, President and CEO of EdVoice. “Shame on the district, county and state bureaucrats that knew of this practice for over 2 years and sat on their hands and waited for parents to file a lawsuit and a formal complaint before they ordered the district to stop the shell game and direct the money back to the kids that need the help the most. It shouldn’t take a lawsuit and a nine month complaint process to bring this to light. There must be greater state transparency and oversight on districts to make sure that LCFF can truly begin to narrow the persistent achievement gaps in California and not become the latest education fad, shell game, or sham perpetrated on the state’s most needy students by defenders of the status quo in the district and Sacramento.”

For more information on the decision, see it [here](#) .

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EdVoice is a nonprofit grassroots network of over 50,000 parents, community leaders, educators, and the state’s leading education philanthropists, working together to be heard in the decision making process in Sacramento. Follow us on Twitter at @EdVoice.