



“Every time I have to go to the bathroom at school, there’s a

line. And sometimes they really need to be cleaned. Maybe the school can get some more help to open up all of the restrooms again.”



“Having up-to-date textbooks and materials is essential for

helping all students in my class learn.”



“Having a fully credentialed teacher is so important for my

child’s success.”



STATE PRIORITY AREA: CONDITIONS OF LEARNING

Basic Services

Basic services means ensuring all students have access to teachers who are fully credentialed in their subject areas, instructional materials aligned with state standards, and safe, properly maintained school facilities. Research shows when students are provided with these basic tools, student learning outcomes increase as if they had 30 days more of instructional time.

Some ways schools can measure basic services include assessing:

- The number of teachers who are appropriately assigned and fully credentialed in their subject area.
- The number of up-to-date instructional materials that are aligned with state standards.
- The number of school facilities in good repair for student health and safety.
- The number of school facilities with emergency repair projects.
- The number of welcoming and inviting campuses that foster learning and build a sense of community based on parent perception surveys.
- The number of classrooms that are not overcrowded and meet student needs.

Learn more – get engaged!

- Public Advocates: www.publicadvocates.org/williams-v-california
- California School Boards Association: csba.org/GovernanceAndPolicyResources/FairFunding/WilliamsSettlement.aspx
- Commission on Teacher Credentialing: www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/default-current.html
- Policy Analysis for California Education: edpolicyinca.org/publications/new-schools-overcrowding-relief-and-achievement-gains-los-angeles—strong-returns-195
- California State PTA: www.capta.org/lcff
- Also, be sure to check out your local school district’s website.

Key Questions to Ask About Basic Services

- 1. Is instruction provided by highly qualified teachers in all subject areas?** Do we provide ongoing professional development to retain and recruit teachers? What effective strategies can we use to attract more highly qualified teachers and staff?
- 2. Do our students use current textbooks and relevant materials aligned to state standards and do they have access to a quality computer?** How can we ensure that all students get up-to-date materials on time, including those who enroll later in the school year?
- 3. Are all of our school facilities, including libraries, fitness equipment and playgrounds, in working order?** In what ways can we improve our facilities and equipment to benefit the physical and emotional health and safety of all students?
- 4. How are we improving or increasing services for foster youth, low-income youth and English Language Learner students in the area of basic school services?**
- 5. How are parents from all neighborhoods engaged in developing goals to improve basic school services?** Do we effectively communicate with parents on our challenges and solutions with regard to facilities, textbooks and teachers? What is our plan going forward to improve communication and strengthen family-school partnerships in this area?