



TWO CREATIVE PROJECTS TAP STUDENT INGENUITY TO BENEFIT WCCUSD

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Two creative projects are tapping West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) student ingenuity to benefit their school district.

While the California Alliance for Arts Education’s “Student Voices Campaign” encourages students to share their voices re: the district’s Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the Living Hope Neighborhood Church’s “The Potential Project” asks them to address a particular goal in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)—each project, in its own way, using students’ creativity to the benefit of their own schools.

The Student Voices Campaign is spurred by California's mandate that students be guaranteed a voice in planning and budgeting for their school district. The LCFF requires that districts consult with students, parents, teachers and community members each spring to create an official plan for the coming year.

Organizers of the campaign are appealing to students from throughout California to express their creativity spirit via short original videos surrounding the campaign theme, "Your Voice. Your Vision. Your School."

The concept is to offer a creative way for California youth to make their voices heard in their local school districts. As part of the campaign, students in grades 7-12 are invited to create videos that show what inspires their creativity, imagination and passion, and upload it to the campaign's website by April 1, 2016.

Organizers will then share students' work with their local school board.

For their participation, students can potentially win a trip to San Francisco, where their video will be screened before a live audience of student artists, activists and industry pros.

The California Alliance for Arts Education is supported in its efforts by the California Arts Council and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

To learn more about the Student Voices Campaign, including the entry form and sample videos, click [here](#).

On a more local level, Pastor Dave Clark of Richmond's Living Hope Neighborhood Church is rolling out The Potential Project for 2016.

To participate, current WCCUSD students are encouraged to create a team with between two and 30 members and pick one of the goals from the WCCUSD's LCAP (see link to LCAP on application page).

According to the WCCUSD, the LCAP is a mandated planning tool for California school districts to show how they will improve student outcomes and overall

performance, particularly for low income students, English learners and foster youth. The LCAP covers a small percentage of the funding from California's aforementioned LCFF.

Using The Potential Project's application document found [here](#), Pastor Clark asks students to create a plan of awareness, spark creative collaboration and create measurable progress toward one of the goals contained in the plan.

According to Pastor Dave in an email correspondence, each team can apply for up to \$500 in grant funding to be used to complete the project. Applications must be submitted via a MS Word document or pdf file to pastordave@lhnchurch.org by Friday, Feb. 12, 2016.

The Potential Project's grant winners will be notified the week of Monday, Feb. 29, 2016. Successful applicants can then pick up their funding at the church and begin work on their project.

Groups have until Friday, April 29, 2016, to finish their projects. Per Pastor Dave, both a written project summary and a video project summary (between 4-6 minutes long) must be submitted before 5 p.m. April 29.

Participating groups will present their written and video summaries at The Potential Project end-of-year celebration Tuesday, May 10, 2016, from 6-8 p.m

For more details about The Potential Project, or to apply, click [here](#).

"The Potential Project is built on the belief that we have incredible young people with great potential in our community," Pastor Dave told For Richmond last year. "We wanted to get the LCAP in the hands of students and hear from them regarding some of the issues and challenges at their schools that they're interested in seeing addressed. It's a platform for the young people."