**Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant Needs Assessment and Evidence-based Resources Training Webinar** 

2025-26 through 2027-28

**Created September 2024** 

#### **Webinar Topics**

- Information about Geographic Lead Agencies
- Introduction to changes in Education Code for the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant and Needs Assessment
- Connection to the Local Control and Accountability Plan
- Definition of "evidence-based" actions
- Organization of a workbook of resources
- Demonstration of the workbook

# California's Geographic Lead Agencies



#### **Geographic Lead Agencies**

- Assembly Bill 1808 of 2018 established the California Geographic Lead Agencies (Geo Leads) to build the capacity of county offices of education (COEs) to ensure that counties are equipped to build the capacity of their local educational agencies (LEAs) to support the continuous improvement of student performance.
- There are 9 Geo Leads across 7 geographic areas of the state that work together to provide the support for county offices, school districts, and charter schools. The Geo Leads also connect COEs and LEAs to the other initiatives within California's Statewide System of Support.

#### To find your Geographic Lead Agency

 Go to the Geo Lead Agency webpage on the California Department of Education (CDE) website to review the list of Geo Lead Agencies and the counties they serve. This list is located at <a href="https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/crss.asp">https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/crss.asp</a>.

 Or go to the new Directory located in the top right corner of the System of Support website located at <a href="https://systemofsupport.org">https://systemofsupport.org</a>.

#### **Geographic Lead Agencies**



#### **Resource Development (1)**

- One role of Geo Leads is to identify existing resources and, if requested by the CDE and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, develop new resources to improve student outcomes under state priorities, or other areas of need.
- Geo Leads were tasked with curating resources and developing training resources for county offices of education and school districts and charter schools to support new requirements related to the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant (LREBG).

#### **Resource Development (2)**

- At a Statewide System of Support lead agency virtual meeting, lead agencies shared resources that could potentially support LREBG-related actions.
- Geo Leads formed a workgroup to streamline the creation of a needs assessment tool and a repository of resources aligned to the LREBG.
- The workgroup developed a collection and vetting process, and shared with other Geo Leads to seek input and recommendations.

#### **Student-Focused Support**

- Geo Leads agreed that all resources contained in the repository must be student-focused and centered on accelerating progress.
- Geo Leads organized the resources according to the LREBG education code categories to take the "guesswork" out of how each resource aligns to LREBG allowable uses.
- Geo Leads included links to associated research for each resource to support LEAs with future connections to their Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

# Introduction to Changes in the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant



#### Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant

- California Budget Act of 2022 added Education Code (EC) 32526 to establish the LREBG.
- California Budget Act of 2023 amended EC 32526 to reduce the original LREBG allocation.
- California Budget Act of 2024 amended EC 32526 to add new requirements including that all funds to be expended in school years 2025–26, 2026–27, and 2027–28 be subject to a needs assessment and be included in the LCAP.

#### **LREBG Needs Assessment**

- An LEA that has received or will receive apportioned funds pursuant to EC 32526(d)(1) shall develop a needs assessment to identify pupils in the greatest need of learning recovery supports and interventions.
- Needs assessment includes a review of specific metrics:
  - English language arts and mathematics outcomes
  - Chronic absenteeism

#### **LREBG Allowable Uses (1)**

 (A) Instructional learning time for the 2022–23 through 2027–28 school years by increasing the number of instructional days or minutes provided during the school year, providing summer school or intersessional instructional programs, or taking any other evidence-based action that increases or stabilizes the amount of instructional time or services provided to pupils, or decreases or stabilizes staff-to-pupil ratios, based on pupil learning needs.

#### LREBG Allowable Uses (2)

- (B) Accelerating progress to close learning gaps through the implementation, expansion, or enhancement of evidence-based learning supports. *EC* 32526(c)(2)(B) provides examples.
- (C) Integrating evidence-based pupil supports to address other barriers to learning, and staff supports and training, such as the provision of health, counseling, or mental health services, access to school meal programs, before and after school programs, or programs to address pupil trauma and social-emotional learning, or referrals for support for family or pupil needs.

#### LREBG Allowable Uses (3)

- (D) Access to instruction for credit-deficient pupils to complete graduation or grade promotion requirements and to increase or improve pupils' college eligibility.
- (E) Additional academic services for pupils, such as diagnostic, progress monitoring, and benchmark assessments of pupil learning.
- (F) Conducting the needs assessment.



- California Budget Act of 2024 added EC section 52064.4 to require revisions to the instructions to the LCAP beginning with the 2025–26 LCAP.
- On or before January 31, 2025, the instructions for the LCAP template must be revised to specify that actions related to all unexpended LREBG funds be included in the LCAP for the 2025–26, 2026–27, and 2027–28 LCAP years.

- The LCAP must identify all planned expenditures using LREBG funds within the description of the actions and analysis of the implementation of those actions in the annual update;
- The LCAP must include at least one metric to monitor the impact of each action supported with LREBG funds.

• With the LCAP, the LEA must articulate the rationale for selecting actions that implement one or more of the purposes identified in *EC* Section 32526(c)(2) based on the needs assessment required by *EC* Section 32526(d), including identification of how the selected actions are expected to address the identified areas of need for students or schools identified by the needs assessment.

 With the LCAP, the action description explains how research supports each selected action based on the identified area or areas of need identified in the required needs assessment.

## Definition of "Evidence-based"



#### **Evidence-based**

EC 32526 specifies that "Evidence-based" has the same meaning as that term in Section 7801(21)(A) of Title 20 of the United States Code.

Evidence-based interventions are practices or programs that have evidence to show that they are effective at producing results and improving outcomes when implemented. The kind of evidence described in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has generally been produced through formal studies and research.

Resources included in the LREBG workbook demonstrated in this video are aligned to definition of evidence-based outlined in ESSA.

#### **Evidence-based**

Under ESSA there are four tiers of evidence:

- 1. **Strong Evidence:** supported by one or more well-designed and well-implemented randomized control experimental studies.
- 2. **Moderate Evidence:** supported by one or more well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental studies.
- 3. **Promising Evidence:** supported by one or more well-designed and well-implemented correlational studies.
- 4. **Demonstrates a Rationale:** practices that have a well-defined logic model or theory of action, are supported by research, and have some effort underway by a state education agency, LEA, or outside research organization to determine their effectiveness.

"Knowing and building on what has worked in the past, and specifically for whom and in what circumstances, offers a better chance of success in the future."

WestEd's Evidence-based Improvement Guide (2017)

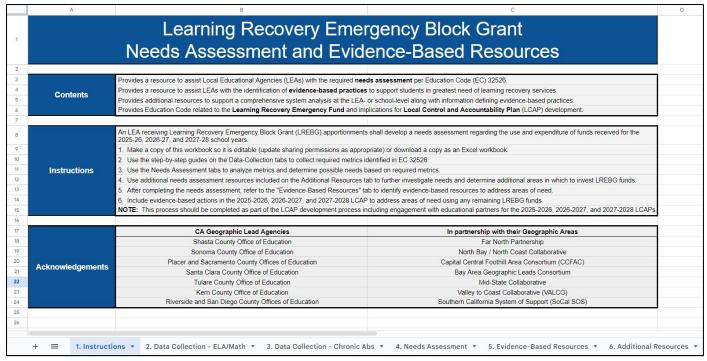
## Organization of the Workbook



#### Organization of the Workbook

- 1. Instructions
- 2. Data Collection: English Language Arts/Math
- Data Collection: Chronic Absenteeism
- 4. Needs Assessment by School, LEA, and Student Groups
- Evidence-Based Resources Organized by Allowable Uses of Funds in LREBG
- 6. Additional Resources
- 7. EC 32526 LREBG
- 8. EC 52064.4 LCAP

#### Workbook - Tab 1, Instructions



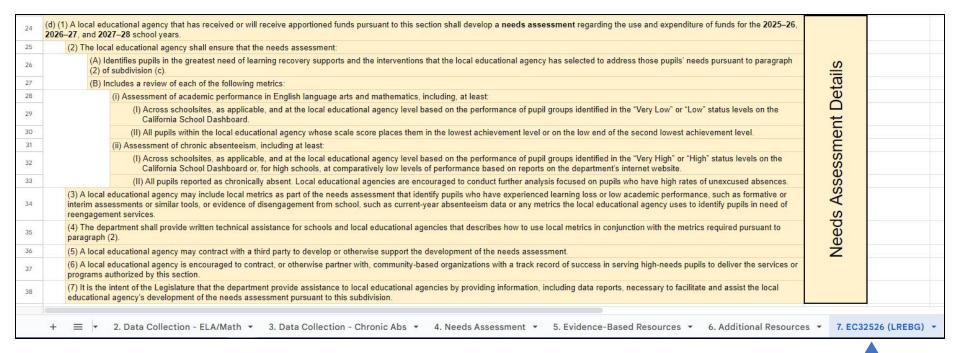


Numbered tabs are included for various elements

#### **Workbook - Education Code**

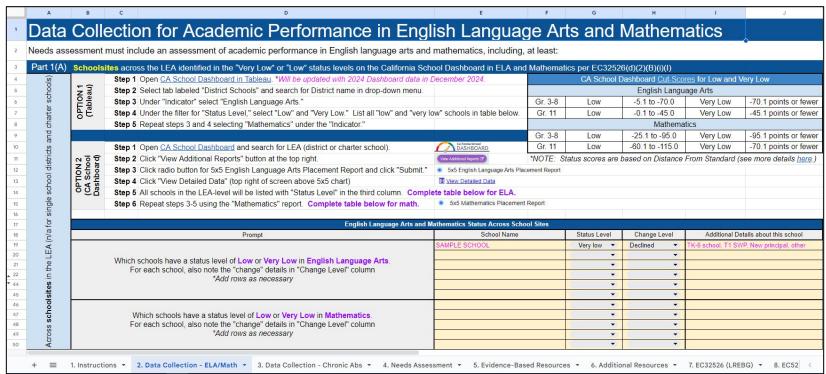
7. EC32526 (LREBG) - 8. EC52064.4 (LCAP) -

#### Workbook - Tab 7, *EC* 32526



Needs Assessment Requirements per Education Code 32526

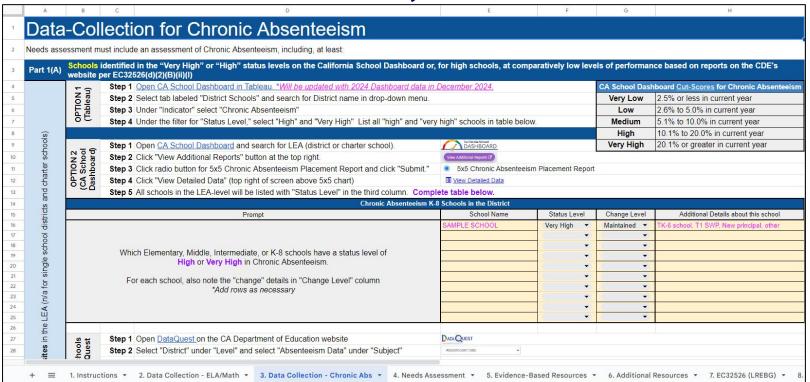
#### Workbook - Tab 2, Data Collection





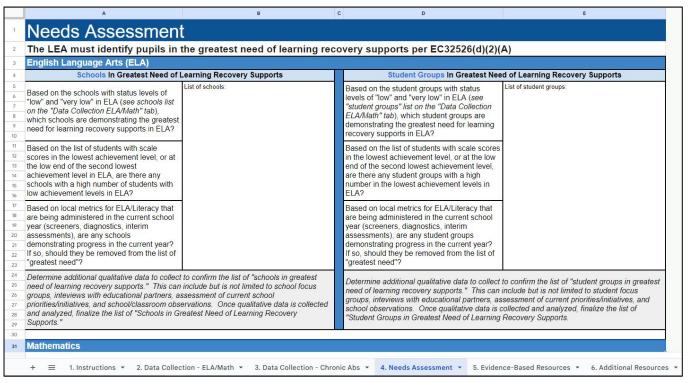
Data collection instructions for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics

#### Workbook - Tab 3, Data Collection

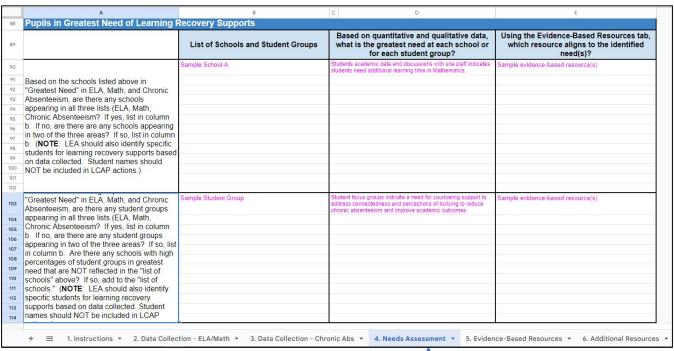


Data collection instructions for Chronic Absenteeism

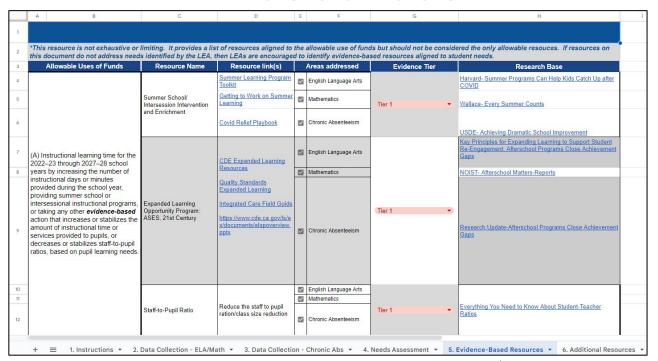
#### Workbook - Tab 4, Needs Assessment



## Workbook - Tab 4, Needs Assessment continued



## Workbook - Tab 5, Evidence-Based Resources





#### **Additional Notes**

- The list of evidence-based resources is not exhaustive, nor is it intended to be limiting.
- It provides a list of resources aligned to the allowable use of funds but should not be considered the ONLY allowable resources.
- If resources in the workbook do not address needs identified by the LEA, then LEAs are encouraged to identify evidence-based resources aligned to student needs.
- If an LEA has questions about any of the evidence-based resources linked within the workbook, it is recommended that the LEA contact the author of resource.

## Demonstration of the Workbook



#### **Workbook Demonstration**

#### **Contact Information for Questions**

#### **Needs Assessment Resources:**

System of Support Office
SystemofSupport@cde.ca.gov

#### **Interim Expenditure Reports:**

School Improvement and Support Office

LREBG@cde.ca.gov

#### **LCAP Template and Instructions:**

Local Agency Systems Support Office LCFF@cde.ca.gov

Thank you for listening!