Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team Review

Fact Sheet

- The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the County Board of Education began working with the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) in January 2011 to conduct an impartial analysis aimed at improving the Office’s efficiency and effectiveness. FCMAT is an independent agency based in Bakersfield that advises and assists school systems statewide.

- LACOE contracted with FCMAT in April 2011 to conduct a targeted review, which was not an audit.

- Conducted from April-August 2011 at a cost of $380,000 to LACOE, the effort involved extensive document review, site visits and interviews with LACOE staff and clients.

- FCMAT’s team of more than two dozen education consultants and experts focused on three areas at LACOE:
  - governance structure, staffing and organization
  - fiscal management and financial analysis
  - management of juvenile court school and other educational programs

- FCMAT’s review used a deficit analysis model, which means its scope of work did not involve looking at the many effective programs and services that LACOE provides on behalf of the county’s two million preschool and school-age children.

- FCMAT followed its practice of ensuring study validity by closely controlling the review as proprietary material and only allowing select LACOE administrators to check draft documents for factual accuracy.

- FCMAT presented its 379-page report at the Dec. 6, 2011 meeting of the Los Angeles County Board of Education.

- The review offered 401 recommendations for changes or improvements. Some of the recommendations cannot be immediately implemented and will involve long-term planning. Nonetheless, LACOE has already made a number of changes since completion of the review, which are summarized in the FCMAT report.

- Following FCMAT’s Dec. 6 presentation, LACOE Superintendent Arturo Delgado announced that the Office would begin developing a comprehensive administrative plan to improve its efficiency and effectiveness as an educational services agency for local public school districts.

- The reform plan will present a course of action focused on the three key areas outlined in the management review.

- FCMAT’s full report and other documents may be viewed and downloaded at: wwwStatic.kern.org/gems/fcmat/LACOEfinalreport12611.pdf

- The review’s executive summary and the section summarizing changes LACOE has made since the review’s fieldwork was completed are posted on: www.lacoe.edu/fcmatreview.

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