About FCMAT

The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) was created by legislation in 1992 as an independent and external state agency. FCMAT's mission is to provide proactive and preventive fiscal, business and management services that help local educational agencies comply with fiscal accountability standards and incorporate best practices.

FCMAT has performed more than 700 reviews for K-12 school districts, county offices of education, community colleges and charter schools. Management assistance requests represent approximately 90% of FCMAT's reviews. Areas of review include budgets and multiyear financial projections, reviews of business services, organizational effectiveness, transportation services, maintenance and operations, and technology. Approximately 10% of FCMAT's reviews are assigned by the state Legislature or county superintendents and involve assistance with the goal of averting the need for emergency state loans.

FCMAT also develops and provides numerous publications, software tools, workshops and professional development opportunities to help local educational agencies operate more effectively and fulfill their oversight responsibilities. FCMAT manages the California School Information Services (CSIS) database, the largest known K-12 educational data collection system.

Funding

FCMAT is funded through appropriations in the state budget and modest fees to client agencies.

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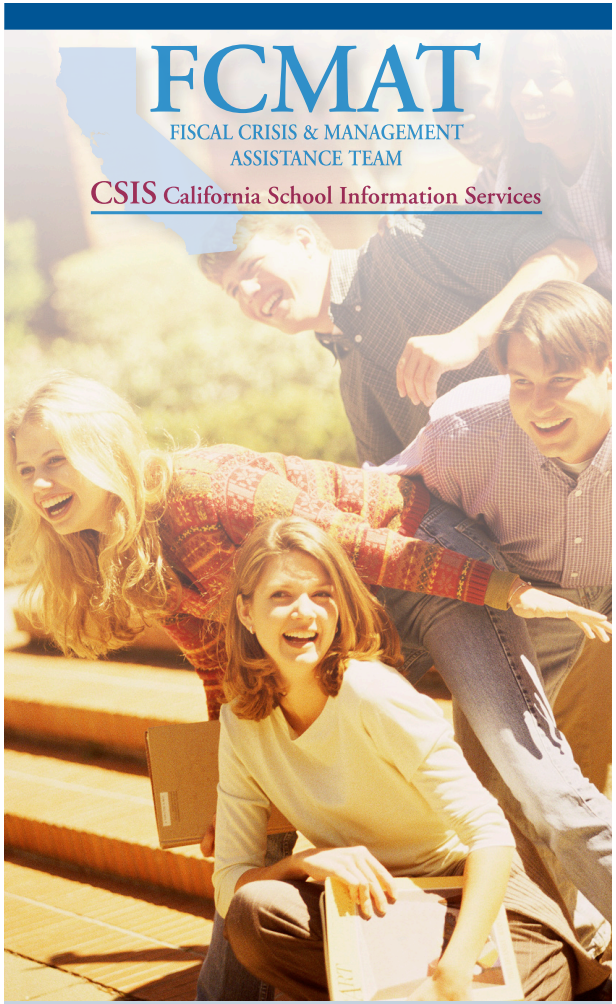
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FCMAT

FISCAL CRISIS & MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM

CSIS California School Information Services





Management & Technical Assistance
Professional Development
Software & Publications
California School Information Services

FCMAT's Services

Fiscal & Management Assistance

FCMAT's primary mission is to help California's local educational agencies identify, prevent and resolve financial challenges. FCMAT's services are used not just to help avert fiscal crises, but to promote sound financial practices and effective and efficient operations.

FCMAT may be called in by a school district, charter school, community college, county office of education, the state Superintendent of Public Instruction, or the Legislature.

When a request or assignment is received, FCMAT assembles a study team that works closely with the local educational agency to define the scope of the study, conduct a review and provide a written report with careful findings and realistic recommendations to help resolve issues, overcome challenges and successfully plan for the future. This approach, combined with a high level of professionalism and service, has resulted in consistently high ratings on clients' post-study evaluations.

Study Teams

FCMAT study teams are led by one or more experienced full-time staff members and include highly qualified consultants with demonstrated expertise in their respective fields. Most consultants are actively working in a school agency or JPA, or are retired from a successful career in the specific area to be reviewed.

Fiscal Advisor Services

FCMAT staff members occasionally serve as short-term fiscal advisors to districts and county offices that are in a fiscal or leadership transition or that require additional fiscal expertise.

Fiscal Tools

Budget Explorer Software

FCMAT's free online Budget Explorer software provides school districts and county offices of education with a streamlined and intuitive tool for budgeting and creating multiyear financial projections.

Fiscal Health Risk Analysis

FCMAT's Fiscal Health Risk Analysis uses a simple question-and-answer format to help school districts gauge their overall fiscal and operational health in 17 key areas. The analysis document is available at no charge on FCMAT's Web site.

Professional Development

CBO Mentor Program

FCMAT's Chief Business Official (CBO) Mentor Program is a year-long experience that provides in-depth training, peer review and one-to-one mentoring for current and prospective chief business officials in educational agencies statewide. The depth of information, analysis, feedback and individual assistance make this program one of the strongest of its kind. More than 90% of participants are subsequently promoted to CBO or other positions of increased fiscal responsibility.

ASB Workshops

FCMAT's ASB workshops are provided upon request and are designed to help school district and site staff understand and comply with the numerous and sometimes complex financial and legal requirements for administering Associated Student Body organizations and finances.

FCMAT's services are used not just to help avert fiscal crises, but to promote effective and efficient operations.

Technical Assistance

Online Help Desk

FCMAT's Web site features a free online Help Desk for fiscal questions. Answers are usually provided within 48 hours. Archived questions and answers are also available for reference.

E-mail Lists

FCMAT maintains several peer e-mail lists to help administrators in school districts and county offices of education share information.

Publications

All of the below publications are available as free downloads from FCMAT's Web site, www.fcmat.org.

ASB Accounting Manual

This manual provides guidance for Associated Student Body organization, governance, finance and accounting.

Fiscal Oversight Guide

This publication provides in-depth information and procedures related to the fiscal oversight and compliance responsibilities of school districts and county offices of education.

COE Fiscal Procedural Manual

The COE manual provides detailed information regarding fiscal procedures and requirements to assist chief business officials in California county offices of education.

CSIS

California School Information Services is managed by FCMAT and maintains the largest known K-12 educational data collection system. CSIS helps districts use this data to track and transfer student information statewide. More information is available at the CSIS Web site, www.csis.k12.ca.us.

For more information or to request services, visit www.fcmat.org and click on "request our services," or call (661) 636-4611