

## **COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **Definitions**

Free appropriate public education (FAPE) means special education and related services that are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge; meet the standards of the California Department of Education, include appropriate preschool, elementary school, or secondary school education for children between the ages of 3 and 21; and are provided in conformity with the student's individualized education program (IEP).

The right to FAPE extends to students who are suspended or expelled or placed by the district in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school.

Least restrictive environment means that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, be educated with children who are nondisabled, including the provision of nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities.

Special education means specially designed instruction, provided at no cost to the parent/guardian, to meet the unique needs of individuals with disabilities whose educational needs cannot be met with modification of the regular instruction program. It also includes related services, provided at no cost to the parent/guardian, that may be needed to assist these individuals to benefit from specially designed instruction. Special education provides a full continuum of program options, including instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and in other settings; and instruction in physical education, to meet the educational and service needs of individuals with disabilities in the least restrictive environment.

Specially designed instruction means adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible student, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the student that result from the student's disability and to ensure access of the student to the general curriculum, so that the student can meet the educational standards within the district that apply to all students.

Surrogate parent means an individual assigned to act as a surrogate for the parent/guardian. The surrogate may represent an individual with disabilities in matters relating to identification, assessment, instructional planning and development, educational placement, reviewing and revising the IEP, and in other matters relating to the provision of FAPE to the individual with disability.

### **Elements of the Local Plan**

The local plan developed by the special education local plan area (SELPA) shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Assurances that policies, procedures, and programs, consistent with state law, regulation, and policy, are in effect.
2. An annual budget plan and annual service plan adopted at a public hearing held by the SELPA .
3. A description of programs for early childhood special education from birth through five years of age.
4. A description of the method by which members of the public, including parents/guardians of individuals with disabilities who are receiving services under the plan, may address questions or concerns.
5. A description of a dispute resolution process.
6. Verification that the plan has been reviewed by the community advisory committee.
7. A description of the process being utilized to refer students for special education instruction.
8. A description of the process being utilized to oversee and evaluate placements in nonpublic, nonsectarian schools and the method for ensuring that all requirements of each student's IEP are being met.
9. A description of how specialized equipment and services will be distributed within the local plan area in a manner that minimizes the necessity to serve students in isolated sites and maximizes the opportunities to serve students in the least restrictive environment.

The local plan, annual budget plan, and annual service plan shall be written in language that is understandable to the general public.

Each entity providing special education shall adopt policies for the programs and services it operates.