Information Sheet – 06/16/2020 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 8.1

FR: Celli Coeville

DATE: June 11, 2020

RE: Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation, BP/AR 0430, Comprehensive Plan for Special Education, Consider for Adoption

Board Policy BP 0430, Comprehensive Plan for Special Education, has been updated to reflect the requirement that the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) submit its local plan to the county office of education and/or Superintendent of Public Instruction and the requirement, beginning July 1, 2020, to review the plan every three years. The policy also clarifies the different types of SELPA governance structures and adds an option for arrangements in which the district joins with other districts and the county office of education to form a SELPA. The policy adds the requirement to adopt a procedure for the ongoing review of programs and a mechanism for correcting any identified problem.

Regulation AR 0430, Comprehensive Plan for Special Education, has been updated to reflect the new template for the SELPA plan developed by the California Department of Education (CDE). The section on “Definitions” has been revised to delete definitions for terms which are not used in this policy and regulation. The section on “Elements of the Plan” have been expanded to include further details regarding required components. The Regulation also reflects NEW LAW (SB 75, 2019) which requires the SELPA plan to include an annual assurances support plan, beginning July 1, 2021 based on a CDE template developed by July 1, 2020. The regulation adds a requirement that each school post a notice of the public hearing that will be held by the SELPA to adopt the plan, and adds a new section on “Availability of the Plan” which includes a requirement to post the SELPA plan on the district’s website and make it available in the district office.

I’ve highlighted the proposed changes and indicated the differences in red font.

Recommended Action: Approve Revised BP/AR 0430, Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 56195.1, school districts and county offices of education (COE) are required to form geographical regions, known as Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs), of sufficient size and scope to administer a local plan and the allocation of funds for all the special education service needs of the children residing within the boundaries of the region. Districts may join together or with a COE to form a SELPA, or a single district may form its own SELPA. Each SELPA is required to develop and administer a local plan describing how it will provide special education services. Pursuant to Education Code 56195.5, the Governing Board has authority, consistent with the SELPA plan, over the programs it directly maintains.

The following policy and accompanying administrative regulation should be revised to reflect requirements for the type of SELPA in which the district participates.

The Governing Board ~~desires~~ recognizes its obligation to provide a free appropriate public education to all individuals with disabilities, aged 3 to 21 years, who reside in the district~~, including children who have been suspended or expelled or placed by the district in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school~~.

~~Students shall be referred for special education instruction and services only after the resources of the regular education program have been considered, and where appropriate, utilized. (Education Code 56303)~~

(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)
(cf. 4112.23 - Special Education Staff)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))
(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)
(cf. 6159.2 - Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education)
(cf. 6159.3 - Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education Students)
(cf. 6159.4 - Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students)
(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

~~Note: Education Code 56195.1 requires a local plan for the education of all individuals with disabilities residing in the district. This plan may be developed in conjunction with other districts (Option 1 below) or by a single district (Option 2).~~

~~The special education local plan area (SELPA) shall administer a local plan and administer the allocation of funds. (Education Code 56195)~~

In order to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities ~~and employ staff with adequate expertise for this purpose,~~ the district shall participates ~~as~~ as a member of ~~the Special Education Local Plan Area SELPA~~ with other districts and the county office of education pursuant to Education Code 56195.1.

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

~~The Superintendent or designee shall extend the district's full cooperation to the SELPA. The policies and procedures of the SELPA shall be applied as policies and regulations of this district, with the exception of those that apply to complaints, unless the SELPA plan specifically authorizes the district to operate under its own policies and regulations.~~

Note: Education Code 56195.8 mandates each entity providing special education that is participating in a multi-district SELPA to adopt policies for the programs and services it operates, including, but not limited to, policies on nonpublic, nonsectarian services, review of the class assignment of a student with disabilities, procedural safeguards, resource specialists, transportation of students with disabilities, information on the number of individuals with disabilities who are being provided special education and related services, and caseloads for speech and language specialists providing services to children with disabilities ages 3-5 years. District policies on these topics should be consistent with policies adopted by the SELPA.

The district shall enter into agreements with other members of the SELPA in accordance with Education Code 56195.1 and 56195.7. Consistent with these agreements, the district shall adopt policies governing the programs and services it operates. (Education Code 56195.8)

The Superintendent or designee shall work with the other members of the SELPA to develop a local plan for the education of individuals with disabilities. The plan shall be approved by the Board and the other members of the SELPA, and shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Education Code 56195.1)

Note: The remainder of this policy applies to all districts.

Pursuant to Education Code 56195.9, beginning July 1, 2020, the local plan must be reviewed by the SELPA at least once every three years. The budget plan, service plan, and annual assurances support plan must still be reviewed annually pursuant to Education Code 56205; see the accompanying administrative regulation.

The local plan shall be reviewed at least once every three years and updated as needed to ensure the information contained in the plan remains relevant and accurate. The local plan shall be updated cooperatively by a committee of representatives of special and regular education teachers and administrators selected by the groups they represent and with participation by parent/guardian members of the community advisory committee, or parents/guardians selected by the community advisory committee, to ensure adequate and effective participation and communication. (Education Code 56195.9)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 56195.7, a single-district SELPA is mandated to adopt a written procedure for the ongoing review of programs and a mechanism for correcting any identified problem. For districts participating in a multi-district SELPA with or without a COE pursuant to Option 2 or 3 above, these requirements are contained in the written agreement entered into by members of the SELPA. The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district and/or SELPA practice.

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education programs and services shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis. The results of such evaluations shall be use to identify and correct any program deficiencies.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
56000-56001 Education for individuals with exceptional needs
56020-56035 Definitions
56040-56046 General provisions
56048-56050 Surrogate parents
56055 Foster parents
56060-56063 Substitute teachers
56170-56177 Children enrolled in private schools
56190-56194 Community advisory committees
56195-56195.10 Local plans
56205-56208 Local plan requirements
56213 Special education local plan areas with small or sparse populations
56240-56245 Staff development
56300-56385 Identification and referral, assessment, instructional planning
56440-56447.1 Programs for individuals between the ages of three and five years
56500-56508 Procedural safeguards, including due process rights
56520-56524 Behavioral interventions
56600-56606 Evaluation, audits and information
56836-56836.05 Administration of local plan
GOVERNMENT CODE
7579.5 Surrogate parent, appointment, qualifications, liability
95000-95029 California Early Intervention Services Act
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
361 Limitations on parental control
726 Limitations on parental control
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
3000-3089 Regulations governing special education
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29
794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
99.10-99.22 Inspection, review and procedures for amending education records
104.1-104.39 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
300.1-300.818 Assistance to states for the education of children with disabilities, including:
300.500-300.520 Due process procedures for parents and children
303.1-303.654 Early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities

Management Resources:

WEB SITES
California Department of Education, Special Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Definitions

~~Note: The following administrative regulation reflects the 2004 reauthorization of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 USC 1400-1482), implementing federal regulations (34 CFR 300.1-300.818), and conforming state legislation (AB 1663, Ch. 454, Statutes of 2007). Note that in cases where state law provides greater protections to students, state law supersedes federal law.~~

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, including the requirements of 34 CFR 300.1-300.818; include appropriate ~~services for children aged~~ preschool, elementary school, or secondary school education for individuals between the ages of 3 and ~~through~~ 21 ~~years~~; and are provided in conformity with ~~the student's~~ an individualized education program (IEP) ~~pursuant to~~ that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 300.~~320~~ 340-300.~~324~~350~~.~~ (Education Code 56040; 34 CFR 300.17, 300.101, 300.104~~; Education Code 56040~~)

~~The right to FAPE extends to students who are suspended or expelled or placed by the district in a nonpublic school or agency services. (34 CFR 300.13,300.121)~~

~~Full educational opportunities mean that students with disabilities have the right to full educational opportunities to meet their unique needs, including access to a variety of educational programs and services available to nondisabled students. A program specialist may be responsible for assuring that students have full educational opportunities regardless of their district of residence. (34 CFR 300.504, 300.505; Education Code 56368)~~

~~Note: AB 1663 (Ch. 454, Statutes of 2007) added Education Code 56040.1 to provide the following definition, consistent with federal law.~~

Least restrictive environment means that, to ~~an appropriate~~ the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities, including ~~children~~ individuals in public or private institutions or other care facilities, ~~shall~~ be educated with ~~children~~ individuals who are ~~not disabled~~ nondisabled, including ~~in~~ the provision of nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of students with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in the regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. (Education Code 56040.1; 34 CFR 300.107, 300.114, 300.117; Education Code 56040.1)

~~Note: AB 1663 (Ch. 454, Statutes of 2007) amended Education Code 56000 and 56031 to define "special education," as specified in the following two paragraphs.~~

~~*Special education* means specially designed instruction, provided at no cost to the parent/guardian, to meet the unique needs of individuals with exceptional needs, whose educational needs cannot be met with modification of the regular instruction program, and~~

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

~~related services, at no cost to the parent/guardian, that may be needed to assist these individuals to benefit from specially designed instruction including a full continuum of program options including instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and other settings, and instruction in physical education to meet the educational and service needs of individuals with exceptional needs in the least restrictive environment. (Education Code 56031)~~

~~Specially designed instruction means adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible child, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction (34 CFR 300.39)~~

~~*Surrogate parent* means an individual assigned to act as a surrogate for the parents/guardian. The surrogate may represent an individual with exceptional needs 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. (34 CFR 300.515; Education Code 56050)~~

~~Note: Pursuant to Government Code 7579.5, when a student is a ward of the court, the district would appoint a surrogate parent only when the court has limited the right of the parent/guardian to make educational decisions for his/her child and the student has no responsible adult, such as a foster parent, to represent him/her. Since Welfare and Institutions Code 361 and 726 require the juvenile court to appoint a responsible adult when the court limits parental rights, rarely will it be necessary for the district to appoint a surrogate because that appointment would be superseded by the court's appointment of a responsible adult or foster parent. See BP/AR 6159.3 - Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education.~~

Elements of the Local Plan

Note: Education Code 56205 **and 56206** details the elements that must be included in the local plan developed by the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), including a requirement that the plan contain assurances of general compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (**IDEA**)** (20 USC 1400-1482), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12101-12213). ~~The following section is **optional**.~~

Pursuant to Education Code 56122, the California Department of Education (CDE) has developed templates for plan development, which are available on its web site.

The local plan, developed by the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 56122, 56205, 56206)

1. Policies, procedures, and programs, that are consistent with state laws, regulations, and policies and 20 USC 1412(a), 20 USC 1413(a)(1), and 34 CFR 300.201 governing the following:

   a. Free appropriate public education

   b. Full educational opportunity

   c. Child find and referral

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

d. Individualized education programs, including development, implementation, review, and revision

e. Least restrictive environment

f. Procedural safeguards

g. Annual and triennial assessments

i. Transition from the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities programs pursuant

h. Confidentiality

to 20 USC 1431 to the preschool program

j. Children in private schools

k. Compliance assurances, including general compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC 1400-1482), Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101-12213), related federal regulations, and Education Code 56000-56865

l. A description of the governance and administration of the local plan in accordance with Education Code 56205(a)(12)

m. Personnel qualification to ensure that personnel, including special education teachers and personnel and paraprofessionals are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained in accordance with Education Code 56058 and 56070 and 20 USC 1412(a) (14) and 1413(a)(3)

n. Performance goals and indicators

o. Participation in state and districtwide assessments, including assessments described in 20 USC 6301 et seq. and alternate assessments in accordance with 20 USC 1412(a)(16), and reports relating to assessments

p. Supplementation of state, local, and other federal funds, including nonsupplantation of funds

q. Maintenance of financial effort

r. Opportunities for public participation before adoption of policies and procedures

s. Suspension and expulsion rates

t. Access to instructional materials by blind individuals with exceptional needs and

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

others with print disabilities in accordance with 20 USC 1412(a)(23)

u. Overidentification and disproportionate representation by race and ethnicity of children as individuals with exceptional needs, including children with disabilities with a particular impairment described in 20 USC 1401 and 1412(a)(24)

v. Prohibition of mandatory medication use pursuant to Education Code 56040.5 and 20 USC 1412(a)(25)

2. An annual budget plan including descriptions of the SELPA's allocation plan in accordance with Education Code 56836-56845, all revenues by revenue source received by the SELPA specifically for the purpose of special education, a breakdown of the distribution of funds to each local educational agency (LEA) within the SELPA, projected total special education expenditures by each LEA, projected total expenditures by the SELPA and the LEAs within the SELPA, projected funding to be received specifically for regionalized operations, and a breakdown of projected SELPA operating expenditures

3. An annual service plan, describing the services to be provided by each LEA, regardless of whether the LEA participates in the local plan, including the nature of the services and the physical location at which the services will be provided. This description shall demonstrate that all individuals with exceptional needs shall have access to services and instruction appropriate to meet their needs as specified in their individualized education programs.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 56122, as amended by SB 75 (Ch. 51, Statutes of 2019), beginning July 1, 2021, the local plan must include an annual assurances support plan to demonstrate how the SELPA and its participating agencies are coordinating to assure effective outcomes for students with disabilities. A template for the annual assurances support plan will be developed by CDE by July 1, 2020.

4. Beginning July 1, 2021, an annual assurances support plan to demonstrate how the SELPA and its participating agencies are coordinating for purposes of assuring effective outcomes for students with disabilities, including a description of:

a. How the SELPA will support each participating district in achieving the goals, actions, and services identified in its local control and accountability plan

b. How the SELPA will connect any participating district in need of technical assistance to the statewide system of support

c. The services, technical assistance, and support the SELPA will provide to meet the required policies, procedures, and programs specified in Education

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Code 56205

5. A description of programs for early childhood special education from birth through five years of age

6. 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 pursuant to Education Code 56205

7. A description of a dispute resolution process**,** including mediation and arbitration to resolve disputes over the distribution of funding, the responsibility for service provision, and the other governance activities specified within the local plan

8. Verification that the plan has been reviewed by the community advisory committee in accordance with Education Code 56205 and that the committee had at least 30 days to conduct this review before submission of the local plan to CDE

9. A description of the process being utilized to refer students for special education instruction pursuant to Education Code 56303

10. A description of the process being utilized to oversee and evaluate placements in nonpublic, nonsectarian schools, the method of ensuring that all requirements of each student's IEP are being met, and a method for evaluating whether the student is making appropriate educational progress

11**.** 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**,** and annual assurances support plan shall be written in language that is understandable to the general public. They shall be adopted at a public hearing of the SELPA, for which notice of the hearing shall be posted in each school in the SELPA at least 15 days before the hearing. (Education Code 56205)

Each special education local plan area shall develop written agreements to be entered into by districts participating in the plan. (Education Code 56195.7)

~~Each entity providing special education shall adopt policies for the programs and services it operates, consistent with agreements adopted pursuant to Education Code 56195.1 and 56195.7. (Education Code 56195.8)~~

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Availability of the Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall post on the district's web site the approved local plan, annual budget plan, annual service plan, and annual assurances support plan and any updates or revisions to the plans. A complete copy of the local plan, annual budget plan, annual service plan, annual assurances support plan, and policies and procedures shall be held on file in the district office and shall be accessible to any interested party. (Education Code 56205.5)