



Division of Special Education Update

Status on Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings

During this global pandemic LAUSD and the Division of Special Education continues its commitment to holding IEP team meetings on time. With the implementation of remote learning assessments and in-person assessments as of November 2020 LAUSD has conducted approximately 26,000 IEP team meetings during the 2020-21 school year. Parents are encouraged to participate virtually and/or via telephone, and if you have any questions on how to do so, please reach out to your child's case carrier or administrator. The District is continuing to send text message reminders to parents regarding scheduled IEP team meetings. In addition, the "Virtual IEP Team Meeting Informational Video for Parents" is available in English and Spanish on the Division of Special Education – Resources for Parents During Distance Learning webpage at <https://achieve.lausd.net/page/16606>.

December 2 is National Special Education Day

Beginning in 1971, a U.S. District Court case in the District of Columbia, Mills v. Board of Education, ruled it unlawful to deny exceptional children, including those with mental and learning disabilities, publicly funded educational opportunities. Court cases like this led to the 1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act which was signed by President Gerald Ford on November 29th. The federal legislation required states that accept federal money to provide equal access to children with disabilities. Additional protections were added in 1986 to support parents and educators in creating an education plan for children with disabilities. In 1990, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act was renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and improved access for all children with developmental delays. Through the years, the act has been enhanced to improve services and standards throughout the educational system.

Inclusive Schools Week: December 7-11

Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event organized by the Inclusive Schools Network that celebrates the progress schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students with disabilities. The week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what can be done to ensure their schools create and/or enhance a culture that successfully educates all children. The theme for this year's Inclusive Schools Week is "The Time for Inclusion is NOW!"

Parent Portal

As a friendly reminder, we highly encourage all parents to access the Parent Portal where various special education documents (i.e. IEP) and reports (i.e. service tracking) are available.

<https://parentportalapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>

Family and Student Handbook is available on the [Division of Special Education website](#).

COVID-19 Division of Special Education Parent Website

The COVID-19 parent website will continue to be updated with supplemental resources. The primary instructional support will continue to be provided by students' teachers. <https://achieve.lausd.net/page/16606>.



Service Tracking Letters

For the 2020-21 school year only, the Division of Special Education (DSE) has suspended issuing quarterly letters to parents whose child has received less than 70% of their related service (including Resource) target. The decision to suspend this important communication is due to the impact COVID-19 has had on the reporting structure. The DSE continues to monitor our service tracking performance and consistently communicates with Local District Leadership (i.e. Superintendents, Special Education Administrators) to appropriately address provision of services to students. We will reinstitute this process once normal operations resume.

Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child’s case carrier and/or school administrator if they have any questions or concerns.

CAC Calendar Topics for the 2020-21 School Year

| Month | Topic |
|----------|---|
| December | Early Childhood Special Education |
| January | Behavior |
| February | Transition Services |
| March | Dyslexia |
| April | Local Plan |
| May | Inclusion |
| June | Incarcerated Youth & Alternative Dispute Resolution |

SELPA/CDE Information

From State Superintendent Tony Thurmond
Dear School Communities and Partners:

In a year that has been filled with so much uncertainty, change, and disruption, our California teachers have been nothing short of heroic. Their tremendous efforts have helped students feel a semblance of normalcy, routine, and hope. They’ve checked in on students’ well-being, and they’ve supported students in a range of ways they never expected. That’s why I’m constantly inspired by the teaching profession and proud to announce the [2021 California Teachers of the Year!](#)

These five exceptional educators, announced this week, are ambassadors for the profession and serve as representatives of the state for the calendar year. Read more about them in [this news release](#), and stay tuned as we introduce you to them and their stories on our social media channels in the coming weeks. I had a chance to personally call each of them, congratulate them, and hear their stories of perseverance, and I can tell you that they’re a great reminder to all of us why we do what we do.

Teachers are still finding ways—in fact going above and beyond—to make meaningful connections with their students so they’re in a better position to learn. That includes addressing students’ mental health needs. Trauma has been one of the unifying experiences of 2020, and our state’s leaders are hoping to address students’ mental health needs and social-emotional well-being. Please read more about Social and Emotional Learning in [this piece penned](#) by our State Board President Linda Darling-Hammond, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, and myself. We’re also [providing youth mental health first aid training](#) at no cost to our school, district, and county staff. And this week we hosted a webinar in our Suicide Prevention Webinar Series: “[Building a Network of Safety for School Communities.](#)” Please stay safe, and thank you for all of your hard work and dedication week in and week out.

Source: CDE Website