



# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## REFERENCE GUIDE

**TITLE:** School Assignment Policy for  
Speech and Language (LAS) Services

**NUMBER:** REF-4311.2

**ISSUER:** Sharyn Howell, Executive Director  
Division of Special Education

**DATE:** March 29, 2010

### ROUTING

All Locations  
Local District Superintendents  
Administrators of Instruction  
Local District Directors  
Support Unit Administrators  
School Site Administrators  
Speech and Language Therapists

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Reference Guide is to provide information to Local District Superintendents and Directors, Support Unit Administrators, and School Site Administrators regarding the allocation of Speech and Language (LAS) Service Providers to schools.

**MAJOR CHANGES:** Updated to include current contact information for Speech and Language Program staff.

**BACKGROUND:** There is a nationwide critical shortage of speech therapists that has affected school districts in California including Los Angeles Unified School District (the District). The District has taken proactive steps in increasing its ability to hire additional personnel in this field, including offering a new competitive salary table, creating outreach programs to local universities, hiring agency personnel, and providing shortage pay to our current therapists for servicing additional students beyond the state mandated average caseload.

California Education Code, Modified Consent Decree Outcome 13, and the Division of Special Education require the Speech and Language Program to provide equitable service to students in all geographic areas of the District. The Speech and Language Program staff are also responsible for ensuring that students who are most at-risk receive consistent services. During this time of critical shortage, the Speech and Language Program staff must allocate resources in order to meet the needs of students in schools that have been chronically underserved. Each year, school assignments for therapists are adjusted to bring high quality services to students targeting those who have not had services or who have received inconsistent services.

Many therapists must be assigned to more than one Local District to serve students in an equitable manner. In order to meet the needs of all students across the District and because of the shortage of speech therapists, it is possible that schools that have had consistent speech therapy service in recent years may be uncovered for a short period of time or these schools may be assigned a different service provider.



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**PROCEDURES:** The assignment of speech therapists continues during the summer. At the end of August, the Director of Related Services will send a letter to Principals with the names of related service providers assigned to their school site.

At school sites where there is a change in service provider, school site administrators must communicate with parents and school staff to keep them informed. The District has made the commitment to hire an increased number of speech therapists and to seek highly qualified personnel to meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the communication needs of our students. The District's goal and responsibility is to provide equitable services for all students.

If a school site does not receive LAS service at any time during the school year, the school site administrator will be contacted by a Specialist from the Speech and Language Program to review strategies for temporary support and procedures for developing LAS goals, IEPs and assessments. At that time, the Specialist will share with the administrator the "Speech and Language Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)."

**RELATED RESOURCES:** California Education Code  
Modified Consent Decree Outcome 13  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

**ASSISTANCE:** For assistance or information, please contact the Specialist for your Local District at 213-241-6200:

Local District 1 - Elaine Shackelford  
Local District 2 – Barbara Neil  
Local District 3 - Susan Simon  
Local Districts 4 & 5 - Kathy Boyle  
Local Districts 6, 7 & 8 - Larry Cox

Additional contacts include: Shellie Bader, Coordinator, Speech and Language Program, Division of Special Education at (213) 241-6200 or Deborah Rubenacker, Director of Related Services, Division of Special Education at (213) 241-6200.