

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Issued By: Superintendent Sean McPhetridge (510) 337-7060 and  
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### **AUSD to Form Special Education Strategic Planning Group**

**Alameda, Calif. — February 24, 2017 —** Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) announced today that it is forming a broad-based Special Education Strategic Planning Group to develop a three- to five-year special education plan for the district.

The group, which will be comprised of parents/guardians, certificated and classified staff members, union leaders, and district staff, will create a plan based on recommendations drawn from:

- The state's 2015 "Blueprint for Great Schools"
- The state's Special Education Task Force
- The Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) internal review of AUSD special education operations
- Current research on exemplary special education programs across California and the country
- A thorough review of program and service delivery options, student performance measures, and financial data

The development of the AUSD Special Education Strategic Plan will include goals, strategies, and concrete action steps focused on use of best practices in the following five priority areas:

- Intervention and Identification
- Service Delivery Models
- Support Systems
- Leadership and Communication
- Monitoring and Compliance

The planning group will meet monthly for eight sessions, with the first session scheduled for March 30, 2017. Meetings will be held at the AUSD District Office from approximately 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Meetings will be hands-on, collaborative, and highly participatory. Members of the planning group are asked to commit to attending all eight meetings to help foster the

development of a cohesive plan and a collective voice that will help AUSD improve its Special Education services.

"We are excited about the formation of this Special Education planning group," said AUSD's Chief Student Support Officer Kirsten Zazo. "Collaboration among general education and special education staff, students, and families is critical to our students' success. We are looking forward to examining our special education programs and services, our data, the latest research, and FCMAT recommendations and creating a special education plan that will guide our efforts in the years ahead."

Added Superintendent Sean McPhetridge, "I am looking forward to seeing this work take shape under Ms. Zazo's leadership. This broad-based team will help AUSD and the community we serve do deep data-based inquiry and investigation of best practices in special education so that we can incorporate them in our own program."

Community members interested in serving on the planning group or who would like more information are encouraged to contact Kirsten Zazo at [kzazo@alameda.k12.ca.us](mailto:kzazo@alameda.k12.ca.us) or by phone at (510) 337-7095.

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*Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) serves more than 9600 students in Alameda, California, an island community in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, please visit the [AUSD website](#), follow [@AUSDNews](#) on Twitter, or subscribe to our [email communications](#). Questions? Contact Susan Davis, Senior Manager, Community Affairs, at [sdavis@alameda.k12.ca.us](mailto:sdavis@alameda.k12.ca.us).*