

# **NCCSE: BEYOND THE BASICS**

CAC MEETING, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

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## **SELPA – WHAT IS THIS??**

- **Special Education Local Plan Areas**
    - **Created in 1977 in response to federal requirements to provide full continuum of special education services**
    - **Outlined in California Education Code**
    - **Defined in California Master Plan in 1980**
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## **SELPA – WHAT IS THIS??**

- **Key Responsibilities**
  - **Child Find**
  - **Free Appropriate Public Education**
  - **Least Restrictive Environment**
  - **Alternative Dispute Resolution Support**
  - **Compliance and Performance Support**
  - **Federal and State Reporting**
  - **Technical Assistance**
  - **Allocation of State and Federal Funds**

## **SELPA STRUCTURE IN CALIFORNIA**

- **SELPAs can be large unified school districts, a collection of smaller school districts, county offices, a collection of charter schools, or any combination of the above.**
  - **Over 130 SELPAs in California**
  - **36 Single-District SELPAs**
  - **4 Charter SELPAs**
- **Each SELPA has a unique structure, governance, staffing, and funding allocation plan.**

## **SELPA LOCAL PLAN**

- **Each SELPA has a Local Plan.**
- **Local Plan is the controlling document that describes the SELPA's governance structure, regionalized supports, and funding distribution plan.**
- **Local Plan is only revised when significant changes in law or SELPA governance structure.**

## **MULTI-DISTRICT SELPAS**

- **Multi-District SELPAs range from 2 districts to over 40 districts.**
- **Each multi-district SELPA must designate an LEA or county office as the Administrative Unit (AU) to serve as the legal entity to receive funding**



## NCCSE FAST FACTS

- **NCCSE has 14 member districts**

*Bonsall, Cardiff, Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Fallbrook Elementary, Fallbrook High, Oceanside, Rancho Santa Fe, San Dieguito, San Marcos, Solana Beach, Vista, Vallecitos*

- **NCCSE is one of six SELPAs in San Diego County.**

*North Inland, East County, South County, Poway Unified, and San Diego Unified*

- **NCCSE is the largest SELPA in San Diego County. NCCSE is 6<sup>th</sup> largest SELPA in California. (107, 816 total enrollment; 14,947 students with disabilities)**
- **NCCSE is 4<sup>th</sup> largest multi-district SELPA in California.**
- **NCCSE is lowest funded SELPA in San Diego County.**
- **NCCSE is funded in bottom third of SELPAs in State.**

## NCCSE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- **Board of Governors: Policy-making body composed of Superintendents of 14 Districts**

*Each District has equal vote!*

- **Trustee Review Committee: Reviews SELPA policies and may hear disputes of Board of Governors**
- **Program Cabinet: Special Education Directors make formal recommendations related to policies, procedures, budget, personnel and operations of the SELPA**
- **Finance Committee: District Finance representatives, 2 cabinet members, and SELPA finance officer advise NCCSE Director, Cabinet, and Board of Governors on fiscal policies, procedures, and allocation of funds**

## NCCSE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- **Program-Finance Work Group:** 7 Program Directors and 7 Finance representatives review current cost centers and make initial budget recommendations each year
- **Community Advisory Committee:** Parent and staff representatives from 14 districts who fulfill role established in Education Code and establish SELPA priorities
- **NCCSE Executive Director:** Employed by SDCOE and receives direction and is responsible to Board of Governors
- **Administrative Unit:** San Diego County Office of Education provides administrative support and receives and distributes funding

## NCCSE SERVICES

- SELPA Office
  - *Staff*
    - ✓ Executive Director
    - ✓ 2 Coordinators
    - ✓ 1.4 Program Specialist
    - ✓ 1 Finance Specialist
    - ✓ 1 Parent Liaison (split between 2 people)
    - ✓ 4 Clerical Support Staff
  - *Services*
    - ✓ Recruitment, Hiring, Training, and Supervision of AT, DHH, VI, OT, SLPA services, RTC Case Management, and NPS Alternative Staff
    - ✓ Extensive training and professional development
    - ✓ Dedicated support and training for staff supporting moderate-severe needs
    - ✓ SELPA-wide participation in SEIS; dedicated support and training for CASEMIS responsibilities
    - ✓ SELPA-wide participation in Unique curriculum for students with moderate-severe needs; dedicated support and training
    - ✓ Management and oversight of all State SELPA requirements, including compliance, fiscal, CAC, ADR, legislative and legal implications, SELPA policies and procedures, coordination with agencies and schools, etc.

## NCCSE SERVICES

- **Professional Development 2016-2017**
  - Over 100 trainings and workshops
  - Over 3,000 participants trained (2,211 NCCSE)
  - Over 40 districts/agencies outside of NCCSE paid for slots earning \$10,000 in revenue

## NCCSE SERVICES

- **CAC and Parent Training/Outreach**
  - *Staff*
    - ✓ 1 Parent Liaison (40%/60% split position)
  - *Services*
    - ✓ *Community Advisory Committee and Executive Board*
    - ✓ *Parent Trainings and Resource Fairs*
    - ✓ *1:1 Support and Information*
    - ✓ *Alternative Dispute Resolution Process*
    - ✓ *Excellence in Special Education Awards Event*

## NCCSE SERVICES

- **Assistive Technology**
  - **Staff**
    - ✓ 3 Assistive Technology Program Specialists
    - ✓ 1 Speech-Language Pathology Assistant
  - **Services**
    - ✓ Assessments
    - ✓ Observations
    - ✓ Equipment Trials and Maintenance Support
    - ✓ Training
    - ✓ Collaboration with Special Education and General Education Staff

## NCCSE SERVICES

- **Visually Impaired (VI) Program**
  - **Staff**
    - ✓ 12 Teachers of the Visually Impaired (4 hold dual credentials to provide Orientation and Mobility services)
    - ✓ 1 Braille Transcriber
    - ✓ 3 VI Aides
  - **Services**
    - ✓ Assessments
    - ✓ Direct and Consultative Supports
    - ✓ Provision of Large Print and Other Adaptive Materials
    - ✓ Supports approximately 170 students across all 14 districts

## NCCSE SERVICES

- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program**
  - *Staff*
    - ✓ 11 Teachers
    - ✓ 2 Audiologists
    - ✓ 11 ASL Interpreters
    - ✓ 1 Speech Pathologist
    - ✓ 6 Instructional Assistants
  - *Services*
    - ✓ Assessments
    - ✓ Direct and Consultative Services
    - ✓ 1 Prek and 1 Elementary Auditory-Oral Program
    - ✓ 1 High School Total Communication Class
    - ✓ InterSELPA Placements for students requiring instruction in Total Communication at elementary and middle school levels
    - ✓ We support over 350 students across all 14 districts

## NCCSE SERVICES

- **Small District Protection Pool**
  - **Claims allowed by small districts**
  - **Claims allowed for unexpected, high-cost placement needs**
  - **Claims considered by representatives from Finance and Program Cabinet**
  - **Claims approved by vote of Board of Governors**

## NCCSE SERVICES

- **Small District Program Specialist Support**
  - Provides some limited support to
    - ✓ Vallecitos
    - ✓ Cardiff
    - ✓ Rancho Santa Fe
    - ✓ Fallbrook High
    - ✓ Bonsall (*Bonsall expected to surpass threshold in 2018-19*)
  - Activities
    - ✓ Complex cases, complaint investigation, compliance assistance, etc.
    - ✓ Training
    - ✓ Out-of-District placement support

## NCCSE MOU SERVICES

- Occupational Therapists
- Speech-Language Pathology Assistants
- Sign Language Interpreters
- Program Specialists
- North County Academy Placements
- Case Management Steering Participation

## **ROLE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

- **Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education**
- **Development of special education program and supports to meet needs of all students with exceptional needs**
- **Implementation of Special Education and Related Services**
- **Recruiting, Hiring, and Evaluation of its staff**
- **Compliance with all State and Federal laws**
- **Responding to any compliance or due process complaints**

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- **Role established in California Education Code**
- **Comprised of parents and staff of member districts**
- **Majority of members are parents of children with special needs**
- **Selection overseen by District Administration and approved by Local Governing Boards**
- **Appointments are 2-year terms, which may be extended**
- **CAC serves in advisory role to the SELPA**

## **ROLES OF CAC**

- **Advise on development and review of Local Plan**
- **Recommend annual priorities**
- **Assist in parent education**
- **Encourage community involvement**
- **Support activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs**
- **Assist in parent awareness on the importance of regular school attendance**
- **Big-picture perspective: focus on the 14,500 students with exceptional needs**

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETINGS**

- **Each CAC meeting includes:**
  - **Special Education Topic**
  - **SELPA director update**
  - **Legislative update**
  - **Parent/staff networking**
  - **Leadership opportunities**
  - **Email distribution of special education resources and events**

## **WAYS TO MAXIMIZE INVOLVEMENT IN CAC**

- **Attend meetings and CAC presentations**
- **Attend Workshops and Resource Fairs**
- **Become familiar with Family Section of NCCSE Website**
- **Read publications**
- **Read newsletters and suggest article topics**
- **Volunteer your time to support the Excellence in Special Education Awards!**
- **Stay abreast of legislative topics related to education**

## **HOW CAN I SUPPORT OTHER PARENTS?**

- **Refrain from adding third-party perspectives**
- **Encourage participation in workshops/trainings**
- **Share resources**
- **Encourage communication with District staff and administration**
- **Encourage communication with NCCSE liaison**
- **Encourage Resolutions for School Success (RSS)**
- **Presume positive intentions**

## RESOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

- **Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC) facilitates the process**
- **Susan Carlton-Bahm is facilitator (619) 594-7383**
- **Process is**
  - **Confidential**
  - **Results-oriented**
  - **Satisfying**
  - **Fast and efficient**
  - **Cost effective**

## LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

- **Some issues may require CAC input.**
- **Visit [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) to search for your legislators' homepages under "Your Legislature."**
- **You can learn what committees your legislators are involved with.**
- **If you send a letter or communication, be aware of timelines.**
- **If you meet with a legislator or his/her staff member, share personal stories, ask for support or opposition of a position, and follow up with a letter**

# **BURNING ISSUES/QUESTIONS?**

**THERE ARE NO BAD QUESTIONS!**

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