SELPA | Merced County SELPA | Fiscal Year | 2025-26

LOCAL PLAN

Section A: Contacts and Certifications

SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

California Department of Education

Special Education Division

Local Plan Annual Submission

SELPA: Merced County SELPA

Fiscal Year: 2025-26

Contact Information and Certification Requirements

A1. Check the box or boxes that best represents the SELPA's Local Plan submission to the California Department of Education (CDE):

- ☐ *NEW* SELPA (for proposed multiple Local Educational Agency (LEA) SELPA, or COE joined SELPA only)
- ☐ Local Plan Section B: Governance and Administration
- ☒ Local Plan Section D: Annual Budget Plan
  - ☐ Select if this Local Plan Section D submission was revised after June 30th due date
    - Local Plan Section D
    - Certifications 2, 3, 4 and 5 are required
    - Attachments I-V are required
    - If the submission is an amendment of special education revenues and/or expenditures previously reported to the CDE due to changes in services and programs provided by LEAs within the SELPA, then the SELPA must also submit an amendment for Local Plan Section E: Annual Service Plan, along with Attachment VI and VII.
- ☒ Local Plan Section E: Annual Service Plan
  - ☐ Select if this Local Plan Section E submission was revised after June 30th due date
    - Local Plan Section E
    - Certifications 2, 3, 4 and 5 are required
    - Attachments I and VI are required
    - If the submission is an amendment of programs and services previously reported to the CDE that affect the allocation of special education funds to LEAs within the SELPA, then the SELPA must also submit an amendment for Local Plan Section D: Annual Budget Plan, along with Attachments II-V and VII.
- ☐ Local Educational Agency Membership Changes

A2. SELPA Identification

Enter the 4-digit SELPA code issued by the CDE. SELPA codes can be found on the CDE website located at http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/caselpas.asp.

SELPA: 2400

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A3. SELPA Director Contact Information

Enter address information for the SELPA. Include current SELPA Director contact information. NOTE: SELPA Director position changes do not require amendments to the Local Plan. However, in such cases the new SELPA Director assumes the responsibility for the contents and implementation of the last approved Local Plan filed with the CDE.

SELPA Name	Merced County SELPA		
Street Address	632 W 13th Street	Zip Code	95341
City	Merced	County	
Mailing Address	632 W 13th Street		
City	Merced	Zip Code	95341
Director First Name	Laura	Administrator Last Name	Fong
Director Title	Assistant Superintendent, Special Ed.		
Director's Email	lfong@mcoe.org		
Telephone	(209)381-6710	Extension	

A4. Administrative Entity (Responsible Local Agency or Person (as applicable) Contact Information

Enter information for the current administrative entity. This is the responsible local agency or, an administrative unit for a multiple LEA SELPA or COE joined SELPA; or an identified responsible person for a single LEA SELPA. In either case, the administrative entity identified is responsible for the implementation and/or fiscal administration of the Local Plan and must electronically sign Certification 1 and 2.

Administrative Entity Name	Merced County Office of Education		
Street Address	632 W 13th Street	Zip Code	95341
City	Merced	County	Merced
Contact First Name	Laura	Last Name	Fong
Contact Title	Assistant Superintendent, Special Ed.		

Section A: Contacts and Certifications

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Email: lfong@mcoe.org

Telephone: (209) 381-6710 Extension:

Special Education Local Plan Area Review Requirements

Community Advisory Committee

A5. Pursuant to California *Education Code* (*EC*) sections 56194(a) and (b); and 56205(a)(12)(E) and (b)(7), the SELPA must involve the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at regular intervals during the development and review of each Local Plan section. The SELPA collaborated with the CAC throughout the development, amendment, and review of all Local Plan sections included with this submission?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A (Section D and/or Section E submissions)

A6. Pursuant to *EC* Section 56207(b)(7), the Local Plan section(s): Section B: Governance and Administration: Annual Service Plan must be provided to the CAC for final review 30 days prior to the plan being submitted the CDE.

The Local Plan was submitted to the CAC on: Apr 29, 2025

☒ N/A (Section D and/or Section E submissions)

County Office of Education

A7. Pursuant to *EC* sections 56140, 56195.1(c), and 56205, within 45 days, the COE, or COEs (as applicable) must approve or disapprove any proposed Local Plan, including any amendment submitted by a SELPA within the county or counties. Enter the COE or COEs responsible for, coordinating special education services within a county, reviewing, and approving the Local Plan.

Select the "Add COE" button to add additional COEs as needed. Users my select the "checkbox" next to the COE entry and the "Delete COE" to remove entries as necessary.

☐ COE responsible for approving the Local Plan

Merced County Office of Education

Local Plan section(s) was/were provided to the COE(s) listed for approval on Apr 29, 2025

Add COE **Delete COE**

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Public Hearing Requirements

Local Plan Section D: Annual Budget Plan and Section E: Annual Service Plans

Public Hearing notices must be posted at each school site informing the public of the SELPA Public Hearing for the adoption of Local Plan Section D: Annual Budget Plan, and/or Local Plan Section E: Annual Service Plan at least 15 days before the hearing. Evidence of the posting should be maintained and made available to the CDE upon request.

A8. Local Plan Section D: Annual Budget Plan Public Hearing

Most Recent School Site Posting Date	Apr 3, 2025
SELPA Public Hearing Date	Apr 8, 2025

A9. Local Plan Section E: Annual Service Plan Public Hearing

Most Recent School Site Posting Date	Apr 3, 2025
SELPA Public Hearing Date	Apr 8, 2025

Submitting the Local Plan to the California Department of Education

STEP 1: Contacts and Certifications

Section A is required when submitting any and all Local Plan sections to the CDE for approval. Certifications and applicable attachments associated with the type of submission identified in item A1 above must be included with each submission.

STEP 2: SELPA Governance Structure

A10. For the purposes of special education, the governing board of a district/charter LEA must elect to participate in a SELPA. The SELPA's governance structure is defined by this election. The SELPA meets requirements and has elected the following governance structure for the Local Plan. Select one of the following three choices:

- ☐ Single LEA SELPA: This selection includes only one district LEA; or
- ☐ Multiple LEA SELPA: This selection includes one district or charter LEA together with one or more additional district or charter LEA(s), or a combination thereof (this selection does not include a COE); or
- ■ COE Joined SELPA: A district (or charter) LEA(s) joined with a COE(s) to form a SELPA (this selection includes one or more district or charter LEA(s) *AND* one or more COEs).

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☐ Small and Sparse or Isolated: This selection must meet requirements for COE joined SELPAs as described above, and *EC* sections 56211 through 56212.

STEP 3: Prior Submissions

A11. Enter the fiscal year of the previously submitted Local Plan section:

Section B: Governance and Administration	2024-25
Section D: Annual Budget Plan	2024-25
Section E: Annual Service Plan	2024-25

STEP 4: Local Plan Collaboration

A12. Many representatives of the community are involved in the development of all sections of a Local Plan. In this table, report the participation of key stakeholders required to participate in regular meetings by *EC* sections 56001(f) and 56192 including administrators, general education teachers, special education teachers, members of the CAC, parents selected by the CAC, or other persons concerned with individuals with exceptional needs. Include the agency, first and last name, the title of each participant who was involved in the collaboration in the development of the Local Plan sections, and the section worked on. Select the "Add" button to insert a new row and the "-" button to delete the corresponding row.

Add	Agency	First and Last Name	Title	Section
-	Challenged Family Resource Center	Jodi Frade	CAC	Multiple
-	McSwain Elementary	Christina Millan	Administrator-Spec. Ed.	Multiple
-	Gustine Unified School District	Nicholas Freitas	Administrator-Spec. Ed.	Multiple
-	Merced County Office of Education	Christina Vara	Teacher-Spec. Ed.	Multiple
-	Merced County Office of Education	Jennifer Scheidt	Teacher-Gen. Ed.	Multiple
-	Merced County Office of Education	Caleb Hampton	Parent	Multiple
-	Los Banos Unfied School District	Toney Henry	Administrator-Spec. Ed.	Multiple
-	Merced County Office of Education	Maria Duran Barajas	Administrator-Spec. Ed.	Multiple
-	Livingston Unified School District	Kuljinder Sekhon	Administrator-Gen. Ed.	Multiple

Section A: Contacts and Certifications

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Add	Agency	First and Last Name	Title	Section
-	Merced County Office of Education	Ryan Ballard	Parent	Multiple

STEP 5: Certifications

A13. Select the check box below to indicate which of the five certifications are being submitted. Include the total number of each type of certification being submitted.

- ☐ Certification 1: SELPA Local Plan Section B: Governance and Administration
- ☑ Certification 2: SELPA Local Plan Section D: Annual Budget Plan and Section E: Annual Service Plan
- ☑ Certification 3: COE (Required for all SELPA Local Plan Sections B, D, and E)

  Number Submitted | 1
- ☑ Certification 4: CAC (Required for all SELPA Local Plan Sections B)
- ☑ Certification 5: LEA (Required for all SELPA Local Plan Sections B, D, and E)

  Number Submitted | 21

STEP 6: Electronic Signatures

A14. All applicable certifications must be electronically signed and included with the Local Plan.

STEP 7: Final Check

- All certifications submitted to the CDE must be electronically signed.
- Local Plan must be submitted to the CDE using the SELPA's assigned Box.com web address.
- In order to facilitate the timely processing, approval, and distribution of SELPA funding, please submit the Local Plan in the original, CDE-approved format. All templates are coded for the CDE's record keeping purposes.
- Handwritten, scanned, or modified templates remove the coding from the fields and impede the CDE's processing of the Local Plan. In such cases, SELPAs may be required to resubmit handwritten, scanned, or modified Local Plans that are not saved in the original 2022–23 CDE Local Plan Submission template provided, resulting in a delay in approval and funding.

Section A: Contacts and Certifications

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Certification 1
Local Plan Section B: Governance and Administration

IMPORTANT: Certification 1 is required when the information being submitted to the CDE is related to Local Plan Section B: Governance and Administration.

I certify the attached Governance and Administration Local Plan section has been adopted by all LEA members listed in Attachment I and is the basis for the operation and administration of special education programs. I further assure the agency(ies) represented herein will meet all applicable requirements of state and federal laws, regulations, and state policies and procedures, including compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Title 20 of *United States Code* (*USC*) 1400 et seq., implementing regulations under; the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 *USC,* Chapter 16 as applicable; the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 *USC,* 12101 et seq.; *Code of Federal Regulations,* Title 34, Parts 300 and 303; *EC* Part 30; and the *California Code of Regulations,* Title 5, Chapter 3, Division 1.

C1-1. I certify the SELPA governance and administrative structure as a:

☐ Single LEA SELPA ☐ Multiple LEA SELPA ☑ COE Joined SELPA

For a multiple LEA SELPA or a COE joined SELPA

I certify that joint powers agreements, or other contractual agreements have been developed and are entered into between the multiple LEA SELPA or the COE joined SELPA and entities participating in the Local Plan. These agreements address all requirements of the *EC* Section 56195.1(b) and (c) for the provision of (1) a governance structure and administrative supports necessary for implementation; (2) a system for determining the responsibilities of participating LEA members for educating students with disabilities; and (3) the designation of an administrative entity.

I certify additional written agreements have been developed and are entered into between the multiple LEA SELPA or the COE joined SELPA and all entities participating in the Local Plan pursuant to *EC* Section 56195.7.

All agreements are maintained by the SELPA and will be made available upon request to the CDE.

C1-2. The SELPA collaborated with the CAC throughout the development, amendment, and review of all Local Plan sections included with this submission?

☑ Yes ☐ No (If the answer is "NO," please include comments.)

C1-3. The SELPA reviewed and considered comments provided by the CAC regarding this Local Plan submission.

☑ Yes ☐ No (If the answer is "NO," please include comments.)

Section A: Contacts and Certifications

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C1-4. Specific web address where the SELPA Local Plan, including all sections, is posted.

https://www.mcoe.org/departments-programs/sped

Merced County Office of Education	**Apr 29, 2025**
Administrative Entity Signature*	Date
Steve Tietjen Ed.D., County Superintendent	**Apr 29, 2025**
SELPA Governance Council or Responsible Individual	Date
Laura Fong Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, SELPA	**Apr 29, 2025**
SELPA Administrator	Date

*The responsible individual identified as the Administrative Entity in item A4 of Section A must electronically sign here.

Section A: Contacts and Certifications

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Certification 2
Local Plan Section D: Annual Budget Plan and Section E: Annual Service Plan

IMPORTANT: Certification 2 is required when the information being submitted to the CDE is related to Local Plan Section D: Annual Budget Plan and/or Section E: Annual Service Plan.

I certify the attached Local Plan Section Section D: Annual Budget Plan and/or Section E: Annual Service Plan was/were adopted at a SELPA public hearing(s) and is/are the basis for the operation and administration of special education programs specified herein. I further assure the LEAs identified in Attachment I will meet all applicable requirements of state and federal laws, regulations, and state policies and procedures, including compliance with the *I*ndividuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Title 20 of *United States Code* (*USC*) 1400 et seq., implementing regulations under; the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 *USC,* Chapter 16 as applicable; the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 *USC,* 12101 et seq.; *Code of Federal Regulations,* Title 34, Parts 300 and 303; *EC* Part 30; and the *California Code of Regulations,* Title 5, Chapter 3, Division 1.

C2-1. I certify the SELPA governance and administrative structure as a:

☐ Single LEA SELPA ☐ Multiple LEA SELPA ☒ COE Joined SELPA

For a multiple LEA SELPA or a COE joined SELPA

I certify that joint powers agreements, or other contractual agreements have been developed and are entered into between the multiple LEA SELPA or the COE joined SELPA and entities participating in the Local Plan. These agreements address all requirements of the *EC* Section 56195.1(b) and (c) for the provision of (1) a governance structure and administrative supports necessary for implementation; (2) a system for determining the responsibilities of participating LEA members for educating students with disabilities; and (3) the designation of an administrative entity.

I certify additional written agreements have been developed and are entered into between the multiple LEA SELPA or the COE joined SELPA and all entities participating in the Local Plan pursuant to *EC* Section 56195.7.

All agreements are maintained by the SELPA and will be made available upon request to the CDE.

☒ Yes ☐ No (If the answer is "NO," please include comments.)

C2-2. Specific web address where the SELPA Local Plan, including all sections, is posted.

https://www.mcoe.org/departments-programs/sped

Section A: Contacts and Certifications

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Merced County Office of Education	**Apr 29, 2025**
Administrative Entity Signature*	Date
Steve Tietjen, Ed.D., County Superintendent	**Apr 29, 2025**
SELPA Governance Council or Responsible Individual	Date
Laura Fong, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, SELPA	**Apr 29, 2025**
SELPA Administrator	Date

*The responsible individual identified as the Administrative Entity in Item A4 of Section A must electronically sign here.