

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,  
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)  
**DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*August 21, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.*  
Virtually via Zoom

## **MINUTES**

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### **DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Present via Zoom:** Allegiance STEAM – Dr. Callie Moreno, Aveson Charter Schools – Kelly Jung, Ballington Academy – Shannon Brandner, Desert Trails and LaVerne Preparatory Schools – Anais Guerra, Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy – Rachel Thomas, Leonardo da Vinci – Anne Laird, Odyssey Charter – Chasityflame Price, Options for Youth – Christina Leal, Pasadena Rosebud – Shawn Brown, Pathways to College – James Connell, Southern California Flex Academy – Malia Lovell, Taylion High Desert Academy – Karen Ware

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

**Present via Zoom:** Ortencia Acevedo – Allegiance STEAM, Belsy Salguero and Nila Pacheco – Desert Trails and LaVerne Preparatory Schools

### **CAHELP, DM CHARTER SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT:**

**Present via Zoom:** Pam Bender, Jennifer Sutton, Linda Llamas, Heidi Chavez, Kayla Gewirtz, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Agustina Garcia, Angie Mgbeke, Codi Andersen, Colette Garland, Craig Cleveland, Danielle Côté, Isaac Medina, Dr. Karina Quezada, Dr. Keri Gomez, Linda Rodriguez, Melissa Jacobo, Misty Ubina, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Rory Hazen, Sheila Parisian, Veronica Rousseau

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions, Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA) Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pam Bender at 9:02 am, virtually via Zoom.

### **2.0 ROLL CALL**

Following roll call, a quorum was confirmed to be present for the meeting.

### **3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

### **4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Dr. Callie Moreno, seconded by Anne Laird, to approve the August 21, 2025, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0. Ayes: Dr. Callie Moreno, Kelly Jung, Shannon Brandner, Anais Guerra, Rachel Thomas, Anne Laird, Chasityflame Price, Christina Leal, Shawn Brown, James Connell, Malia Lovell, and Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

### **5.0 CONSENT ITEMS**

It is recommended that the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee consider approving agenda items as a Consent list. Consent Items are routine in nature and can be enacted in one motion without further discussion. Consent items may be called up by any Committee Member at the meeting for clarification, discussion, or change.

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**BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by James Connell, seconded by Shannon Brandner, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0. Ayes: Dr. Callie Moreno, Kelly Jung, Shannon Brandner, Anais Guerra, Rachel Thomas, Anne Laird, Chasityflame Price, Christina Leal, Shawn Brown, James Connell, Malia Lovell, and Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None

5.1.1 June 12, 2025, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

### **6.0 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS**

#### 6.1 2025-26 DM Charter SELPA Advanced Apportionment Revenue Distribution

The 2025-26 AB602 apportionment amounts LEAs will receive for SpEd dollars was provided. The amounts include the costs of program specialists, allocated costs of 7%, and risk pool adjustments. The P2 ADA is based off of the P2 from 2024-25; the pupil count is based off of the certified fall count. The amounts may fluctuate depending on the number of students each LEA has. There is a pause on the set-aside pool for this year.

Updates on pupil counts and ADA projections to be communicated to Kayla Gewirtz who plans to send revenue distributions more often.

### **7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS**

#### 7.1 Legislative Update

Any bill that was going forward has to be out of the House that it originated in by June 15, 2025 or it becomes dead or goes into a 2-year hold which means it can come back next year. If it originated in the Senate, it then goes to the Assembly and vice versa.

- AB560 (Addis) Special Education – Establishing a work group to ultimately pass a maximum recommendation of adult-to-pupil ratio by July of 2027. LEAs are asked to work with their unions and work within their districts to come up with a plan to move forward. There was never a caseload for SDC, the numbers for speech are not caseload amounts but an average throughout the SELPA, RSP has a number of 28 per caseload. Status: moved on to the Senate.
- AB606 (Quirk-Silva) Alternative measures for those with out-of-state credentials with a specialization in pupil personnel services. The credential would be valid for 2 years and eligible for renewal. Status: moved on to the Senate.
- AB1224 (Valencia) Administrative credentialing; substitute teachers; days of service. Changing to 60-day teacher substitutes instead of 30-days. State SELPA and the California Association of Superintendents are supporting it. Status: moved on to the Governor.

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- AB1009 (Blanca Rubio) Teacher credentialing: Offers an opportunity for Occupational and Physical Therapists with a valid license who can verify meeting the basic skills requirement and 3 years of experience as a school-based OT or PT satisfying the requirements to apply for a preliminary services credential with a specialization in Administrative Services. In the past, it has been vetoed by the Governor as he felt that it was a CCTC decision, not a legislative decision.
- H.R. 2333 (Mannion) Protecting Students with Disabilities Act: making sure that funds are not eliminated when the restructuring of the Department of Education takes effect. Makes sure that it does not reduce any funding for any of the programs under IDEA.
- H.R. 2598 (Huffman & Van Hollen) Full Funding Act: asking for full federal funding for the Federal Funding of IDEA. This has never been fully funded.
- AJR-7 (Addis) Special Education Funding: would make the President of the United States and Congress ensure that services and funding for students with disabilities are uninterrupted. Status: in the Senate, it was a unanimous bipartisan vote.

7.2 Desert Mountain Children’s Center Client Services Reports and Updates

7.2.1 DMCC Client Reports

The Charter’s point of contact received the DMCC client and client services reports via encrypted email from Keri Downing. As students return to schools, there may be changes with students either entering with ERHMS on their IEPs or leaving schools. If there are any updates to the client services report or if there are any questions, contact Linda Llamas at [Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org](mailto:Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org).

7.2.2 DMCC Data Points

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, 7,000 referrals were received averaging 600 referrals per month; 31,000 children were served. There were 30 total days of critical incidents debriefings. The Outreach program has the highest number of children reached followed by the Student Assistance program (SAP) and the School-Age Treatment Services (SATS). The Outreach program provides school-wide activities such as bullying presentations for groups or individuals.

7.2.3 DMCC Article: Extreme Heat and Connection to Mental Health

A review of Mental Health article “*Extreme Heat and Connection to Mental Health*,” was provided. The article focuses on the connection between extreme heat and the mental health of children and adolescents. Extreme heat is not just tough on kids’ bodies; it is also a mental health concern. Children heat up faster, they have trouble cooling down quickly, and may not always say when they are struggling, and sometimes do not know that they are struggling. This makes them more prone to anxiety, mood swings, poor sleep, and even

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emergency mental health visits. It affects their focus, their memory, and their learning. Solutions include educating adults to spot heat-related mental health symptoms, expanding access to cooling spaces and green areas and continuing to research the impacts. [Mental Health Articles](#) are available on the DMCC website.

### 7.3 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#) Updates

#### 7.3.1 Professional Learning Summary

For the year 2024-2025, there were 583 participants in CAHELP led trainings, workshops or committees. Of those, 374 were on-site trainings and 209 were regional trainings. Behavioral supports led the way all year with 45% of all participants attending a behavioral supports training.

#### 7.3.2 Flyer – Community Advisory Committee Save The Dates.

September 18, 2025, meeting is titled *IEP Basics Empowering Parents to Support Their Child* presented by Dr. Karina Quezada. The November 13, 2025, meeting will be an autism topic. The February 19, 2026 meeting title is *Keeping the Peace*. April 16, 2026, meeting will be on life skills. If there is someone who may be interested in presenting, please provide Heidi Chavez with their information.

#### 7.3.3 Flyer – Special Education Directors’ Training Save the Dates

These are for Directors and anyone director’s feel should attend based on the topic. October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 training will be presented by Kendra Eaton, Senior Counsel with Lozano Smith on *Navigating Severe Behaviors, Legal Guidance for Special Education Leaders*. February 20, 2026 training topic has not been decided. April 17, 2026 E.B. Bell, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo partner will present *Special Education Legal Updates*.

#### 7.3.4 Flyer – Facilitated IEP Meeting for Educators Training of Trainers

Partnering with Pathways to Partnership for the training of trainers two-day in person training on September 23-24, 2026. Space is limited to 40 participants and lunch will be provided. There is no virtual option.

#### 7.3.5 Upcoming Events

A list of upcoming trainings was provided in the material packet.

### 7.4 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

#### 7.4.1 Due Process Summary

There are no new cases for this year.

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### 7.4.2 Due Process Activity Summary

There is one filing having to do with placement that has carried over from last year.

### 7.5 Compliance Update

Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) Progress Reports are due January 10, 2026 covering July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. It will be the last progress report until the next annual determination letter comes out in early 2026.

For the Cyclical monitoring Cycle B that began in 2024, the corrective action and follow up prong II review is in process. LEAs will have to correct the noncompliance and review two additional student files for the item(s) reported as noncompliant.

The next Cyclical monitoring will begin in 2026. CDE trainings and activities will begin in September. The activities are Policies and Procedures Review, Student Record Review, and Educational Benefit Review Cycle A will be subject to the IEP Implementation process that will take place in Spring of 2026.

There are 13 Charter LEAs in Cycle C for 2026.

### 7.6 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Update

We met our 1<sup>st</sup> Certification on July 25<sup>th</sup>; everyone was certified. The End of Year 3 and 4 final certifications for both SELPAs on August 8, 2025 were met. The 2025-2026 CALPADS transactions cannot be sent up until after September 9<sup>th</sup> when CALPADS books close.

Report 16.21 provides current data on overdue meetings. There must be valid reasons for late plan reviews, re-evaluations, and IEPs. The delay reason, code 90, is reviewed by CDE too. Pending records with delay reasons need to be follow-up on. Report 16.25 provides current data on timelines and should be reviewed often.

### 7.7 Special Education Information System (SEIS) Update

Service code 350, Individual/Small Group Instruction Meeting Delay Reason has been removed. Delay reasons code 15, Exceptional Family Circumstances and code 25, Late Referral to Part C have been added.

Service Location codes 205, Home/Community-based (infants/preschool age) on IEP/IFSP was added. Codes 310, 320, and 570 have been removed. Most common used are 510 0 Regular Classroom, 520 – Separate Class, and 580 – Virtual. Code 570 service location has been removed as State SELPA recognizes charter schools as public schools. Colette will email the definitions to the codes.

Degree of Supports is found on the CALPADS Student page. It went into effect and is required as of July 1, 2025. If the meeting is held before Census Day, October 1, 2025, the Degree of Support can be entered during the meeting. If the meeting will not be held before Census Day, an Amendment must

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be added. This can be done through a non-meeting amendment with n/a on the parent signature line allowing it to be recorded through CALPADS.

SEIS Dashboard should be reviewed frequently in particular, the unaffirmed IEPs, unaffirmed amendments, unsigned IEPs, and electronic signatures.

The SEIS affirm screen revisions were reviewed. Training videos will be updated to reflect the changes. The updated date validations pm the SEIS Information Eligibility page were reviewed.

Next meetings:

- August 26, 2025, SEIS Training 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- August 27, 2025, Translators Group 2:00 – 3:00 pm
- August 28, 2025, Open Forum 9:00 – 11:00 am.

The translators group meetings are held to check in with the district translators, get feedback on what is working and what is not working, and coming up with processes or solutions to assist with the work being done.

### 7.8 Career Readiness & Employment Services (CRES) Updates

#### 7.8.1 Flyer – TPP Annual Professional Learning and Collaboration

September 25, 2025 at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. For TPP staff and teachers to meet and make plan for the upcoming year.

#### 7.8.2 Flyer – WIOA Youth Forward Program

WIOA San Bernardino County Youth Forward is currently enrolling for all pathways for out of school youth.

### 7.9 Prevention and Intervention (P&I) Updates

#### 7.9.1 Dedicated Hours & Training Report July-June 2025

There were 3 Trauma-Informed Supports trainings, 6 Social Emotional Supports trainings, 3 Climate and Culture trainings, 10 Targeted Behavioral Supports trainings, and 18 PBIS Framework trainings. There were 425 hours spent on coaching, 427 hours spent on Collaboration in-person meetings, and 121 hours of observations.

#### 7.9.2 CA-ISP Grant July-June 2025 Year-End Report

Year 3 for the California Integrated Supports Project grant has started. There were 7 schools in cohorts' year 1 and year 2. Pathways to College was recognized for completing their grant last year.

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7.9.3 Flyer – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual CAHELP Recognition

For implementing PBIS at different levels with fidelity, an award ceremony will be held on September 17, 2025, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm .

7.9.4 Flyer – Empowering Educators: A Pathway to mental Health Well-Being

A Hybrid Regional training with Canvas and 6 in-person courses at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley starting on September 25, 2025.

7.9.5 Flyer – PBIS Bootcamp

This is specifically for new people on PBIS teams or new to a school that is already implementing PBIS. Training will be held on September 26, 2025 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley.

7.9.6 Flyer – Prevent-Teach-Reinforce Module – First Semester

The Tier 3 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR) Module is a new Pathway is a mandatory 4-day in-person training with a limit of 4 site teams per semester. Training times are 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley.

7.9.7 Flyer – Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Young Children – First Semester

The Tier 3 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Young Children (PTR-YC) is a mandatory 5-day in-person Pathway with a limit of 4 site teams per semester. Training times are 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley.

7.10 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

Occupational Therapist, Juan “Edson” Magaña has been promoted to OT/PT Supervisor. He can be contacted at 760-646-8000, ext. 495, [Juan.Magana@cahelp.org](mailto:Juan.Magana@cahelp.org).

7.10.1 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Report

For any questions or concerns, please contact Codi Andersen.

Executive Function Skills and Strategies training presented by Kristen Jacobsen, M.S., CCC-SLP will be held September 29, 2025 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley.

**8.0 INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS**

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At 10:01 am, Kelly Jung from Aveson Charter Schools left the meeting.

8.1 CAHELP and Desert Mountain Children’s Center Website Updates

The new CAHELP website is coming in September.

8.2 Flyer – The Data Advantage: Season 6

This training is led by Corey Stacy, Consultant, LCS on November 13<sup>th</sup> 2025, March 12, 2026, and May 14, 2026 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

8.3 Flyer – Language Assessment of African American Students from Diverse Sociocultural & Linguistic Backgrounds.

The State SELPA virtual on-line conference presented by Toya Wyatt, Ph.D., CCC-SLP will take place on October 24, 2025 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Special Ed Connection subscription is forthcoming. An End User Agreement has been emailed to both DMCS and DM SELPA. Once they are all received, they will be submitted and log in information will be distributed.

**9.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ COMMENTS / REPORTS**

Pasadena Rosebud Academy have secured two more portables and are waiting for one more for administration. They do not have any classes sharing right now.

Odyssey Charter’s North bungalow has a 6-week delay, so things are a little packed. The students and staff are happy.

**10.0 CEO COMMENTS**

We are excited about this new year coming up. Everybody is feeling energized and looking forward to a really good year.

**11.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no matters brought by the public.

**12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Quote by Margaret Cousins: *Appreciation can make a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary.*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Pam Bender at 10:11 am.

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The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

*Individuals requiring special accommodation(s) for disabilities are requested to contact Cindy Quan at (760) 955-3555, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.*