Special Education Local Plan Area



SAN MATEO COUNTY SELPA

San Mateo County SELPA
2026 - 2027
Budget Allocation Plan

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Participating LEAs: Bayshore Elementary School District, Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District, Brisbane Elementary School District, Burlingame Elementary School District, Cabrillo Unified School District, Connect Community Charter, Design Tech High School, Hillsborough City School District, Jefferson School District, Jefferson Union High School District, KIPP Valiant Community Charter, KIPP Esperanza, La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District, Las Lomitas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City Elementary School District, Millbrae Elementary School District, Pacifica School District, Portola Valley Elementary School District, Ravenswood City School District, Redwood City Elementary School District, San Bruno Park Elementary School District, San Carlos Charter Learning, San Carlos School District, San Mateo County Office of Education, San Mateo-Foster City School District, San Mateo Union High School District, Sequoia Union High School District, South San Francisco Unified School District, Summit Preparatory Charter High School, Woodside Elementary School District

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COMPONENTS OF THE BUDGET ALLOCATION PLAN

Special Education Apportionments flow from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Administrative Unit (AU) at the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE). State and Federal funds are allocated to LEAs pursuant to the SELPA Budget Allocation Plan that is approved by the SELPA Governing Board and referenced in the Local Plan. Policy and Procedures related to the Annual Budget Allocation Plan are available at https://selpa.smcoe.org.

State Funding

1. **AB 602 State Funding (Resource Code 6500 - State)**
   AB 602 funding comes from four primary funding sources:
   - State
   - Local Property Taxes
   - Excess Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF taxes)
   - IDEA Local Assistance (Federal Grant)

   LEAs in San Mateo County SELPA receive a funding allocation based upon prior year P-2 K-12 ADA. SMCOE does not receive an allocation for programs separate from the Court and County Community School system. SMCOE is a provider of services for LEAs and bills LEAs according to the Special Education Billback Methodology.

2. **Low Incidence Services, Materials and Equipment (Resource Code 6500 – State)**
   Low Incidence Funds (LIF) ensure that appropriate services, equipment and materials for eligible students whose IEPs require such items can be supported with state level funds. The SELPA Governing Board recommends the majority of the revenue be allocated out to the LEA where the eligible student was located as of CALPADS Census Day for the prior year. The SELPA will utilize a small set aside of three percent as outlined by the SELPA's Low Incidence Policy to process unique or emergency reimbursements for LEAs with unexpected or unusual expenditures and to process specialized items coordinated for service providers who serve multiple LEAs, such as audiologists.

   Low Incidence funds do not come with tracking requirements at the SELPA and LEA level. However, it is recommended that LEAs document how they spend their funds. Refer to SELPA Low Incidence Guidelines for additional information and guidance.

   Low Incidence revenue is based on Low Incidence Pupil Count (Primary and Secondary disabilities) as of the CALPADS Census Day. LEAs must first utilize their received funding prior to requesting utilization of the set aside funds monitored by the SELPA. The amount projected for San Mateo SELPA for 2026 - 2027 school year is $1,762,699.72.

3. **Out-of-Home-Care (Resource Code 6500 – State/ERAF)**

   CDE froze funds for Out-of-Home-Care (OOHC) based on December 1, 2016 legislation between the 2016 - 2017 and 2021 - 2022 school years. In 2022 - 2023, the funding model changed, with the new model based on a higher funded amount for all Foster Youth, and targeted funding for students in specific settings. The San Mateo County SELPA is projected to receive $500,986 in state revenue based on current year P-1 calculations. These funds support Non-Public School and SELPA SMCOE LEA placements, if appropriate, for students in out-of-home placements whose parents reside out of the county. The SELPA operated Non-Public School/Licensed Children's Institute Program (NPS/LCI), is funded from the Out-of-Home Care funding, RS/PS funds and Property Tax/ERAF. This allocation may be adjusted based on changes in the current year P-1 calculation.

Federal Grants

Federal Local Assistance Entitlement (Resource Code 3310 – Federal)
The Federal Local Assistance Entitlement is distributed to LEAs by the following formula: 95% Prior Year P-2 ADA and 5% Prior Year Free & Reduced Lunch Count, with an exception for preschool funding.

Federal Preschool Grant (Resource Code 3315 - Federal)
The Federal Preschool Grant is distributed to LEAs serving preschool students aged 3 - 5 years old. The estimated allocation of $411,807 is distributed based on prior year preschool count.

Federal Preschool Staff Development Grant (Resource Code 3345 - Federal)
The Federal Preschool Staff Development Grant of $3,498 is distributed to LEAs serving preschool students aged 3 - 5 years old based on prior year preschool count.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (Resource Code 3395 - Federal)
The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) grant has been awarded to the SELPA to support locally provided dispute resolution and prevention. The SELPA received $15,039 to support the ADR activities for the SELPA during the 2025-2026 school year.

Mental Health Funding
State and federal mental health funds were historically allocated to SELPAs, based on the aggregate average daily attendance (ADA) for each SELPA, which utilized local decision-making to determine use of those resources to provide mental and behavioral health support for students with disabilities and for the behavioral and mental health services for any student with such needs. With the implementation of the funding shift from SELPAs to LEAs during the 2023 - 2024 school year, the allocation methodology was amended in Education Code Section (EC) 56836.07 to address the calculation of mental health services funds.

Federal funds are allocated based on prior-year ADA reported for each LEA as of the Second Principal Apportionment (P-2). LEAs should note that federal mental health funds will continue to be subject to the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, and will require signature on grant award notifications, federal assurances, and federal expenditure tracking, reporting, and budget planning to support the needs of students with disabilities.

SELPA High Cost Pools

The following pools consist of a total of $500,000 annually held by the SELPA to allocate to LEAs based on special circumstances by application to the Governing Board. Any funds remaining in the High Cost Pool will be returned to LEAs based on 50% prior year ADA and 50% Prior Year Pupil Count.

1. **Extraordinary Cost Pools**
   - **Small LEA Impact**
     - LEAs meeting the criteria for Small LEA Impact funds will be recommended to the SELPA Governing Board at the time of adoption of the Budget Allocation Plan. Small LEAs that are community funded do not qualify for funds.
   - **Unique Circumstances/Inordinate Suffering**
     The criteria for application to this pool are:
     - The circumstance arises too late in the prior school year or occurs during the year so there is insufficient time to make changes necessary to adapt to the circumstance.
     - The circumstance is not related to implementation of the current funding model.

2. **Contingency Fund**
   This fund was established and established for emergencies. The SELPA Governing Board affirms to:
   1. Continue an annual contribution of $231,869
   2. Set the minimum size of the contingency ending fund balance to not go below $446,361.87.
   3. If there is a remaining fund balance in excess of the $446,361.87, that amount will be distributed to the LEAs on a prior year ADA basis after the close of the fiscal year.

Other AB 602 SELPA Funded Programs

1. **Court and County Community School Funding**

   Court and County Community School funding is the revenue set-aside for the court and county community school programs' special education and related services for students with IEPs. The Court School refers to the Juvenile School Program at Hillcrest and the County Community School refers to the Canyon Oaks Youth Center, a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program licensed by the Department of Health Care Services. The SMCOE runs a county community school program at Canyon Oaks Youth Center to

deliver educational services for children served under Ed Code §56156.4(c). These programs are the SMCOE programs supported by SELPA for the benefit of all students. The budgeted amount for the Court and County Community School Programs is $308,010 for students of the San Mateo County SELPA.

2. SELPA Administrative Unit Funding

The SELPA AU Budget is developed in collaboration with the Administrators' Council prior to the June meeting in which the Budget Allocation Plan is submitted to the SELPA Governing Board. SELPAs in California receive an allocation from CDE as Regionalized Services/Program Specialist (RS/PS) funds to ensure the SELPA has sufficient resources to implement the state and federal mandates on behalf of the LEAs. San Mateo County SELPA provides substantial support services and these costs will be included in the SELPA budget and paid for out of the SELPA allocations. In the event of a remaining fund balance in the amount allocated to fund the SELPA AU, that amount will be allocated to the NPS/LCI program. For 2026 - 2027, the amount budgeted to the SELPA is $2,359,892, which includes funding for SELPA staffing, professional learning, compliance monitoring support, legal consultation on behalf of member LEAs, mental and behavioral health program development activities, and other SELPA support services including direct and indirect costs that fund the operations of the AU.

Early Start Funding

1. Federal Funding, Part C – (Resource Code 3385 - Federal)
SMCOE receives a federal grant for Early Start Services for infants ages 0-3 with solely Low Incidence disabilities and receives a direct allocation from federal sources.

2. State Funding - (Resource Code 6510 - State)
SMCOE provides Early Start services to infants from ages 0-3 and receives a direct allocation from the State.

Other Sources of State Revenue for LEAs

State NPS/LCI Extraordinary Cost Pool:
The State has $20,000,000 set aside in 2025 - 2026 for LEAs to apply for funding for students who are placed in NPS where the total cost exceeds a statewide established threshold updated annually. The Extraordinary Cost Pool threshold for 2025 - 2026 is $101,268.98. LEAs apply for and receive this funding from the State. The SELPA facilitates LEA applications for funding; applications are due to the California Department of Education annually by October 31st.

Conditions of Receiving Federal Funds

Maintenance of Effort
Federal IDEA Part B funds shall only be used to supplement state, local and other federal funds and not supplant those funds. (EC 56841). Federal IDEA Part B funds shall not be

used to reduce the level of expenditures for the education of students with disabilities made by LEAs, SELPAs and COEs from local funds below the level of those expenditures in the preceding fiscal year. There are allowable exceptions for reducing MOE. (Refer to SELPA MOE Policy.)

Proportionate Share Calculations for Parentally Placed Private School Students
As a condition of receiving IDEA Federal Local Assistance dollars LEAs must spend a proportionate amount of their federal funds on parentally placed private school students.

IDEA § 300.131 Child Find for Parentally-Placed Private School Children with Disabilities. *If an LEA has not expended for equitable services all of the funds by the end of the fiscal year for which Congress appropriated the funds, the LEA must obligate the remaining funds for special education and related services (including direct services) to parentally-placed private school children with disabilities during a carry-over period of one additional year.*

a. The student count shall be conducted on CALPADS census day of the prior year.
b. The student count shall be used to determine the proportionate amount of federal funds that the district of location must spend on providing special education and related services to private school students with disabilities in the year following the student count.
c. LEAs must track funds spent on services for parentally placed private school students, including consultation, professional development opportunities, and/or direct services, if any. The proportionate share cannot be used for the cost of conducting assessments. (Refer to IDEA Requirement to Spend Proportionate Amount on Parentally Placed Private School Students for allowable expenditures for the proportionate calculation.)

Students Served by Other LEAs

Cost Calculation The district of residence is responsible for paying for the costs of students served by other LEAs based on IEP placements. These are determined by LEA local agreements.