



San Joaquin County SELPA

**COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WENTWORTH EDUCATION CENTER | GREENWOOD 3
2707 TRANSWORLD DRIVE, STOCKTON, CA 95206
August 19, 2026 | 10:00 A.M.
Minutes**

PRESENT: Marty Remmers, Jody Burriss, Ann Siegel, Thomas Crocker, Rowena Fairbanks, Travis Manley, Jason Davis, Danyelle Gonzalez, Jamie Hughes, Bridget Deneau

OTHERS PRESENT: Lexi Chalender (note taker), Eric Peters, Austin Nogueira, Zachary Franceschetti, Gary Philips, Deanie Coleman, Susan Scott, Brittany Shepard, Staci Johnson, Annie Cunial, Wendy Frink

ABSENT: NellLaine Kilgore, Robert Bornmann

1. CALL TO ORDER: Marty Remmers called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. COMMENTS:

Public Comments: There were no comments from the audience.

3. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION:

3.1 State SELPA Update- Marty Remmers

Marty provided a school service round-up, including an update on the 2025–26 Special Education Extraordinary Cost Pool (ECP). The ECP application period is open, with California Department of Education (CDE) guidance and data entry screens available through the Principal Apportionment Data Collection (PADC) web application. The ECP reimburses SELPAs for eligible extraordinary costs related to Non-Public School (NPS) placements and special education-related services for students residing in licensed children's institutions (LCIs). Marty noted that available funding is \$20 million, and reimbursements are prorated when claims exceed available funds. For 2024–25, reimbursements were prorated at 35 percent, with more than \$54 million in claims submitted. Marty also provided an update on new requirements regarding employee-student communication, noting that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to adopt a policy addressing the matter.

Marty shared an update regarding the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed revisions to the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards. The proposal would rescind and substantially revise portions of the existing standards. Marty noted that the impact will depend on the final regulations and other requirements applicable to individual providers, including California licensing requirements, LEA

policies, collective bargaining agreements, and federal laws such as Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

Marty shared the July CDE presentation and reviewed SB 373 updates, including NPS monitoring visits, 15-day CDE notification requirements for out-of-state placements, and LEA responsibilities regarding NPS certification and visits. Senate Bill 685, aligning statute with the *Loffman v. CDE* decision, was also discussed, addressing eligibility, religious education, discrimination, behavioral interventions, fingerprinting, credentialing, and nonpublic agencies.

Marty provided updates on Early Start regulations, noting that the State Board of Education approved amendments to the Early Start eligibility regulations. Marty also reviewed the June 16, 2026, HHS interagency agreement that would transfer major IDEA and special education oversight responsibilities from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) to HHS, with certain Office for Civil Rights responsibilities moving to the Department of Justice. Existing rights under IDEA, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) remain unchanged, including Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), procedural safeguards, and other student protections.

Marty also reviewed proposed changes to the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), including elimination or revisions to several indicators and streamlined reporting requirements. IDEA monitoring and corrective actions will continue through OSERS. He shared that all SELPAs should continue implementing IDEA as written and preparing for monitoring and compliance activities while awaiting further federal guidance. Marty emphasized that IDEA rights and funding should not be assumed to have changed and that SELPAs should continue focusing on student outcomes, inclusion, dispute resolution, fiscal accountability, and compliance.

Marty provided an update on NPS certification and shared information from a State SELPA presentation on Non-Public Schools Unit. State SELPA representatives have raised concerns with CDE regarding inconsistencies identified in the NPS certification process, including four areas related to certification status. Marty noted that LEAs may not have received notifications regarding out-of-state placements and reminded members of the related notification requirements, including notifying parents and guardians when an NPS certification status changes.

Marty reviewed SB 373 requirements, including CDE interviews of students placed in out-of-state NPSs, LEA onsite monitoring visits, and the 15-day notification requirement for out-of-state placements. LEAs are responsible for visiting NPSs prior to placement and must use the updated CDE monitoring form for routine visits beginning July 2026. Marty also reviewed NPS certification statuses, including approved, conditional, suspended, and revoked certifications, and noted that certification changes require parent/guardian notification.

Marty also discussed SB 685 and provisions addressing religious education and curriculum, discrimination, and other NPS certification requirements. It was noted that a school cannot be excluded from becoming an NPS because of its religious focus. There are still guardrails as the bill addresses what happens with religious curriculum, discrimination, behavior interventions, fingerprinting/background check, educator misconduct, and staff credentials.

3.2 San Joaquin County SELPA Update - Marty Remmers

Lexi provided an update regarding all changes to the Council of Directors Drive. Marty reviewed Program Specialist assignments, noting that Deanie is no longer formally assigned to SELPA but will continue to work with SELPA in her work in inclusionary

practices, and aligning Developmental Age (DA), Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM), and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) district assignments were also adjusted; there were no changes to existing assignments, only additions. Administrative assistant assignments were also listed, along with the areas each assistant supports. Directors were encouraged to contact the assigned administrative assistant first before Program Specialists for quick assistance.

Marty provided an update on the transition to new individualized education program (IEP) forms. He shared that three other SELPAs volunteered to pilot the new forms and begin the implementation process. It was noted that SEIS users may lose existing information when transitioning to the new forms and may need to manually enter information onto the forms. Marty will contact SEIS to clarify whether information can be transferred, identify any available alternatives, and confirm the anticipated timeline for implementation of the new forms.

Marty shared the Director Development Hour schedule and a survey for directors to provide input on topics for the legal training on the schedule. Directors were encouraged to invite district staff who may benefit from the training. Marty also shared a district contact spreadsheet and asked directors to review the information for accuracy and add any new or updated contacts as needed.

Marty provided an update on Fagen Friedman & Fulfroest LLP (F3 Law) sign-ups and directed participants to obtain the non-employee Travel and Conference form. SELPA will cover payment for three participants from Tracy and Manteca, with two from other districts. CDE complaint reviews across districts were analyzed to identify trends, which are being shared during special education walkthroughs. A SELPA-wide summary of CDE trends is expected in October. Marty reminded the Directors that the Excess Cost Workbook is due to SELPA by September 18 for review prior to submission to CDE, anticipated around November 1.

Marty provided an update on the Supporting Innovative Practices Project (SIP) and discussed potential demonstration sites. Ripon High School was identified as a possible demonstration site, and listed several other schools from California who are currently being considered. SIP's goal is to identify sites that effectively implement and demonstrate inclusive practices. Marty reviewed the proposed process for visiting those sites and shared focus areas for observing and identifying inclusive practices.

Deanie shared information regarding the upcoming Nature for All event, a partnership with the STEM Department. The event is intended to provide outdoor education opportunities for students requiring extensive support who may not otherwise have access to outdoor education. Durham Ferry is working to improve accessibility, including the availability of adaptive outdoor wheelchairs and Polaris vehicles. Several vendors and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will also participate in the event.

Marty shared the Governance Council presentation from June and reviewed SELPA program data and accomplishments. During the year, SELPA hosted 116 events with approximately 3,000 attendees, an increase from approximately 800 attendees the prior year. WorkAbility reported 248 students placed in employment. Marty also provided an update on CCI work, noting that SELPA remains approximately 1.5 percent below the state average but made progress during the past year. CARES served 33 students, while Low Incident (LI) served 117 students, representing an increase of approximately 60 percent. Marty also reviewed Professional Development (PD) survey results and discussed targeted professional development priorities for the upcoming year. SEIS participation and usage data were also provided.

3.3 Independent Educational Evaluators (IEE) Policy Revision- Marty Remmers

Marty provided an update on the IEE cost sheet, which was updated based on Sonia Moscatelli's analysis and shared IEE provider rates sheet updates with two providers still pending. The rates will be reviewed three times throughout the year. Marty also shared that representatives from Atikson Andelson Loya Ruud and Romo (AALRR), SJC SELPAs legal council, reviewed the IEE policies and procedures to provide a new perspective and ensure the procedures are legally sound and accessible to families. A comparison document highlighting the major revisions was shared. Updates include clearer parent rights and IEE process information, clarification that requests may be verbal or written, LEA responsibilities when disagreeing with an IEE request, clarification regarding publicly funded IEEs and the two-year timeframe, strengthened cost-cap and unique-circumstance provisions, evaluator access and assessment requirements, and provisions related to student safety, conflicts of interest, insurance, and due process or court-ordered IEEs. Marty emphasized that the goal is to clarify the process, protect parent rights, and provide LEAs with consistent guidance for responding to IEE requests.

3.4 Program Transfer Policy- Marty Remmers

Marty provided an update regarding a program transfer request process. He stated he worked with Ann in reviewing the process, it was determined that there was not a clear existing procedure to guide program transfers. They reviewed applicable Education Code requirements, and questions were raised by the Superintendents at Governing Council. Marty shared that SELPA would develop a formal process and presented a draft document for directors to review, with a future vote anticipated on the proposed policy.

Marty explained the proposed procedure is intended to clearly identify whether a program transfer is appropriate and the programs and services to which the process applies. The draft defines a regional provider, clarifies that IEPs remain separate and that the process does not automatically move students into a different class or program, and establishes clear steps, timelines, and a checklist for the transfer process. The procedure also identifies the roles of the Council of Directors and the Governance Council and incorporates or references applicable SJCOE SELPA Local Plan and MOU provisions. The fiscal implementation process is still being developed in coordination with Austin.

3.5 CALPADS/SEIS/CIM - Staci Johnson & Susan Scott

Staci provided updates regarding SEIS compliance tools and new-year updates, including a new student CALPADS field and dashboard to support additional compliance monitoring. She also reviewed common compliance errors and related updates. Staci noted that the Desired Results Access Project (DRDP) 2025 is now available, replacing the 2015 version, with revisions that include fewer required fields. Updated training will be needed for Birth–TK staff. Directors were encouraged to join the CALPADS network and the Weekly Flash, and an updated Weekly Flash link was shared.

3.6 Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH) Cases - Susan Scott

Susan reviewed July OAH cases, using color coding to indicate outcomes: red for district losses, blue for mixed outcomes, and green for denials. Susan reviewed selected cases and their legal reasoning, emphasizing the importance of considering mental health needs and maintaining thorough documentation, particularly when concerns arise regarding the accuracy or completeness of information provided by parents.

Susan also shared a reimbursement breakdown for directors to distribute to district staff and provided a presentation containing reminders and guidance for educators.

3.7 Licensed Children's Institution/ Group Home Students- Susan Scott

Susan provided an update regarding LCIs, noting an increase in student placements and the emergence of new LCIs. Students must first enroll with the district, and Susan offered to host a Zoom meeting to walk districts through the LCI placement process. Directors were asked to provide Susan with any information they have regarding new or existing LCIs. LCIs are expected to notify districts when they receive certification.

Marty shared draft local procedures and duties for directors to review. The proposed procedures include identifying students in LCI placements, sharing SELPA LCI contact information, and designating an LEA representative to receive notifications regarding IEP meetings. It was also noted that student records may be requested as part of the process.

3.8 CARES Update- Eric Peters

Eric provided a CARES update, reviewing referral and family engagement data from the prior year. He shared that families were encouraged to schedule meetings, with 88 percent of families engaged, 71 percent meeting their goals, and 85 percent remaining in their current placement. CARES served 33 students and received 20 new referrals. A decrease in Child, Adolescent, Needs, Strengths assessment (CANS) scores was also noted, including cases that were not completed. Eric shared feedback on form results, noting a low response rate but generally positive feedback regarding families' experiences with CARES.

3.9 Low Incident (LI) Committee Member Request - Eric Peters

Eric requested directors to recommend a member for the LI Committee. Six members have left or retired, and two positions have been filled. The committee is seeking one additional member, and districts may submit recommendations to Eric. Eric noted that the committee currently has sufficient membership to meet voting requirements, with five members able to participate in votes.

3.10 Workability Update - Zachary Franchescetti

Zachary provided an update on WorkAbility, noting that job developers are receiving referrals and completing employee packet information, with services expected to begin in September. He shared the upcoming Tracy Special Olympics, which will have the coffee cart and ice cream cart with student workers. Zachary also reviewed plans for the WorkAbility Expo, which will feature keynote speaker Jacob Pacheco who is the U.S.A. Men's Para-Surf Vice-Captain. A news broadcast on Jacob was also shared. Zach noted that last year's expo served approximately 350 participants, with plans to expand participation this year.

3.11 Business Update- Austin Nogueira

- Second Principal Apportionment (P2) Certification - AB602

Austin provided fiscal updates regarding AB602 and related prior-year reconciliations. For the Second Principal Apportionment (P2) Certification, districts were reminded that the June 30 certification reflects updates to state revenue only.

- Prior Year July Annual Accrual - AB602

Austin reviewed the Prior Year July Annual Accrual for AB602, noting that July data provides a more current reflection of revenue and costs. Charts were shared

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with business staff, with amounts identified as accruals and final costs. Charter contributions and final revenue amounts were also reviewed.

- Prior Year Annual Review - Excess Cost Transportation

Austin reviewed the Prior Year Annual Review for Excess Cost Transportation and noted that future models are expected to reflect a significant increase in state revenue. The review includes all applicable costs for the full year.

- Prior Year Annual Accrual - Mental Health Allocation

Austin reviewed the Prior Year Annual Accrual for Mental Health Allocation, including the final mental health report provided to districts and the allocation of state funds to cover mental health costs.

- Updated 2026-27 Budget - AB602

Austin reviewed the updated 2026–27 AB602 budget model, including budget development, County Program utilization, total costs, and projected funding. The updated model reflects changes in program utilization and increased funding, resulting in additional funding to districts. The difference between the original and updated budgets was reviewed, with further changes expected in October when the first data point is available.

3.12 County Programs Update- Rowena Fairbanks

Rowena provided directors with a folder containing information regarding the County Programs currently hosted at their district sites. She reviewed updates to County Programs sites, including staff and classroom information, and noted that phone lines are also being updated. Rowena reviewed referral data, reporting that approximately 35 percent of referrals were not placed and 65 percent were placed, including non-school referrals. She reviewed the types of referrals received and noted that the autism program was the most requested program. Referral data from the past six years was also presented to highlight fluctuations and trends.

Rowena provided a list of district students currently enrolled in County Programs and will provide a copy to each COD member. A class size tracking sheet was also shared, identifying teachers and current classroom attendance. Current enrollment is approximately 1,001 students, compared to 970 students last year. There were 59 referrals received in July and August, compared to 31 during the same period last year. New referral training will be provided to Program Specialists.

Rowena reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between San Joaquin County Office of Education and the districts regarding County-operated special education programs was approved in June. Final formatting of the document is being completed, with distribution anticipated the following week.

4. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION:

4.1 Minutes: The Council of Directors is requested to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2026, meeting as presented.

Motion by Rowena and seconded by Jason to approve the minutes as presented.

Yes:all
No: none
Abstain: none

5. CLOSING COMMENTS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- 5.1 The Council of Directors may address relevant issues and concerns. Comments will be noted.

There were no comments made to be noted.

6. DATES:

- 6.1 Next regular Council of Directors meeting, September 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m.,
Wentworth Education Center, Greenwood 3. 2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton, CA
95206.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

- 7.1 Marty Remmers adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

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Any writings or documents that are public records and are provided to a majority of the SELPA Council of Directors regarding an open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection upon request by sending an email to sjcselpa@sjcoe.net.