



## Community Advisory Committee Division of Special Education Report November 2021



### **Status on Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Meetings**

During this global pandemic LAUSD and the Division of Special Education continues its commitment to holding IEP team meetings on time. As of 10/31/2021 LAUSD has conducted approximately 31,106 IEP team meetings during the 2021-22 school year. Parents are encouraged to participate in IEP team meeting, in-person, virtually and/or via telephone, and if there are any questions on how to do so, please reach out to your child's case carrier or administrator. The District is continuing to send text message reminders to parents regarding scheduled IEP team meetings and reminders on returning the consent page (either in agreement or disagreements to all or part of the IEP). Parents will now be able to use the Adobe sign feature to electronically sign IEP documents such as the consent page and notification to participate in IEP team meeting form. In addition, the "Virtual IEP Team Meeting Informational Video for Parents" is available in English and Spanish on the Division of Special Education – Parents webpage at <https://achieve.lausd.net/spedParents>

### **A message from LAUSD**

#### **Student Vaccination Requirement**

The science is clear – vaccinations are an essential part of protection against COVID-19. In order to reduce transmission and ensure students can remain on campus in the safest possible environment and receive the best education possible, Los Angeles Unified is now requiring all students who are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination to be fully vaccinated by Monday, January 10, 2022, unless they have a qualified exemption. Proof of vaccination must be uploaded to the [Daily Pass](#).

Students who are 12 years of age and older and are part of athletics programs must receive their second Pfizer dose by no later than October 31, 2021. Students who are 12 years of age and older must receive their first vaccine dose by no later than November 21, 2021, and their second dose by no later than December 19, 2021. All other students must receive their first vaccine dose by no later than 30 days after their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, and their second dose by no later than 8 weeks after their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Students and families that have questions or concerns regarding the vaccine are encouraged to call our family hotline at 213-443-1300 and review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Please note the question regarding qualified exception and conditional admission.

#### **What is a qualified exemption or conditional admission?**

A qualified exemption includes a medical exemption. Students may be conditionally admitted if they are in one of these groups: foster youth, homeless, migrant, military family, or has an IEP. State law does not recognize religious or personal belief exemptions for student immunizations

To make a vaccination appointment, please visit [dailypass.lausd.net](https://dailypass.lausd.net).

News release: [Los Angeles Unified to Require All Students 12 and Older to be Vaccinated Against COVID-19 by January 10, 2022](#)



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## CAC Student Membership Application

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) application window for new student members has re-opened! The CAC seeks to fill two student member vacancies. This is a wonderful opportunity for an LAUSD high school student, with an active IEP, to gain leadership skills, learn how LAUSD supports students with IEPs, and provide recommendations to the Board of Education on programs and services to help our students become college and career ready. The application window is from November 1, 2021, through November 17, 2021. There will be an informational webinar on November 8, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The webinar will provide interested students with an opportunity to learn more about the CAC and the role and responsibilities of a student member. Please refer to the [CAC Student Membership flyer](#) for more information. You may also access the attached applications: [CAC Student Application-English](#) // [CAC Student Application-Spanish](#). Additionally, please visit the CAC webpage at <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/10285>.

## Online Winter Session

For students in grades 2 through 8 who receive resource (RSP) or special day services: Students will go on virtual field trips and will learn strategies to access grade-level text, write fluently, and build skills to do work more independently. It will begin December 20<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> and from January 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please access the [Online Winter Session flyer](#) for more information and register via <https://bit.ly/2021WinterSession> by **November 15, 2021**. You will be notified when your enrollment has been processed.

## Division of Special Education Online Guided Parent Trainings 2021-22

The Division of Special Education has developed three online guided parent trainings to provide families and the school community with information about special education, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meeting and an overview on parents' rights. The online parent trainings will be held via Zoom in both a morning (10:00am-11:00am) and evening (6:00pm – 7:00pm) session. Translation services will be available.

[Online Guided Parent Training Flyer-English](#) // [Online Guided Parent Training Flyer-Spanish](#)

## Training Dates & Times

| Date              | Title  | Time                               | Zoom Meeting ID / Login Link   |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| December 9, 2021  | <b>Introduction to Special Education</b>         | 10:00 – 11:00 am<br>6:00 – 7:00 pm | Meeting ID: 854 3948 8574<br>Login Link: <a href="https://lausd.zoom.us/j/85339488574">https://lausd.zoom.us/j/85339488574</a> |
| January 27, 2022  | <b>Know Your Rights</b>                          | 10:00 – 11:00 am<br>6:00 – 7:00 pm | Meeting ID: 854 3948 8574<br>Login Link: <a href="https://lausd.zoom.us/j/85339488574">https://lausd.zoom.us/j/85339488574</a> |
| February 24, 2022 | <b>Parent Participation at IEP Team Meetings</b> | 10:00 – 11:00 am<br>6:00 – 7:00 pm | Meeting ID: 854 3948 8574<br>Login Link: <a href="https://lausd.zoom.us/j/85339488574">https://lausd.zoom.us/j/85339488574</a> |



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## **Parent Portal**

As a friendly reminder, we highly encourage all parents to access the Parent Portal where various special education documents (i.e., IEP) and reports (i.e., service tracking) are available. To access the Parent Portal, visit:

<https://parentportalapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>

## **Phone Numbers**

LAUSD General Hotline: 213-431-4300

Division of Special Education School and Family Support Services: 213-241-6701

LAUSD School Mental Health Hotline: 213-241-3840

Technology Access: 213-443-1300

## **Local District Special Education Offices**

LD Central (213) 241-1378

LD East (323) 224-3300

LD Northeast (818) 686-4400

LD Northwest (818) 654-5001

LD South (310) 354-3431

LD West (310) 235-3700

## **Websites**

Division of Special Education: <https://achieve.lausd.net/sped>

General Resources Welcome Back to School: <https://achieve.lausd.net/resources>

Office of Parent and Community Services (PCS): <https://achieve.lausd.net/pcss>

## **SELPA/CDE Information**

### **Resource: CDE Website**

### **Parents' Rights**

A brief summary of Procedural Safeguards for students with disabilities receiving special education services.

Parents of children with disabilities from ages three through twenty-one have specific educational rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These rights are called procedural safeguards. Individuals serving as surrogate parents and students aged eighteen receiving special education services, are also entitled to these rights.

A number of staff in the child's district and special education local plan area (SELPA) may answer questions about the child's education and the parents' rights and responsibilities. When the parent has a concern, it is important that they contact their child's teachers or administrators to talk about their child and any problems they see. This conversation often solves the problem and helps maintain open communication.



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Parents must be given opportunities to participate in any decision-making meeting regarding their child's special education program. Parents have the right to participate in individualized education program (IEP) meetings about the special education eligibility, assessment, educational placement of their child and other matters relating to their child's free appropriate public education (FAPE).

When a parent cannot be identified or located, a district may appoint a surrogate parent to represent a child with a disability.

### **What Are Parents' Rights in California Special Education?**

Parents and students over age eighteen have the right

#### **To Participate**

Parents have the right to refer their child for special education services, to participate in the development of the IEP and to be informed of all program options and alternatives, both public and nonpublic.

#### **To Receive Prior Written Notice**

Parents have a right to receive prior written notice, in their native language, when the school district initiates or refuses their request to initiate a change in their child's identification, assessment, or educational placement in special education.

#### **To Consent**

Parents must provide informed, written consent before their child is assessed or provided with any special education services. Parental consent must also be provided before any change in special education services may occur. The district must ensure that parents understand proceedings of the IEP team meeting including arranging for an interpreter for parents with deafness or those whose native language is other than English.

#### **To Refuse to Consent**

Parents may refuse to consent to an assessment or the placement of their child in special education.

#### **To Be Given a Nondiscriminatory Assessment**

Children must be assessed for special education through the use of methods that are not culturally biased or discriminatory.

#### **To Receive Independent Educational Assessments**

If parents disagree with the results of the assessment conducted by the school district, they have the right to ask for and obtain an independent educational evaluation (IEE) at public expense.

The parent is entitled to only one IEE at public expense each time the public agency conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

When a parent requests an IEE at public expense, the school district must, without unnecessary delay, either ensure that an IEE is provided at public expense, or request a due process hearing if the district believes their assessment was appropriate and disagrees that an IEE is necessary. The school district also has the right to establish the standards or criteria (including cost and location) for IEEs at public expense.

#### **To Access Educational Records**

Parents have a right to inspect, review, and obtain copies of their child's educational records.



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### **To Stay in the Current Program If There is a Disagreement About Placement**

If parents disagree with the district regarding their child's special education placement or a proposed change in placement, the law requires the student to "stay put" in the current program until the dispute is resolved.

### **To Be Given a Hearing Regarding Disagreements About an IEP**

Parents have the right to present a complaint relating to the provision of a FAPE for their child; to have an attorney, an advocate, and the student, if appropriate, present at the due process hearing; and to make the hearing public. Under certain conditions, the hearing officer may award, reduce, or deny the reimbursement of attorneys' fees and fees paid to nonpublic institutions by parents in the settlement of a case. To request a due process hearing or to receive a complete notice of procedural safeguards related to a due process hearing, contact the Office of Administrative Hearings (see contact information below).

### **To Receive Mediation**

Parents are encouraged to consider settling disagreements regarding their child's special education program through voluntary mediation, a process through which parties seek mutually agreeable solutions to disputes with the help of an impartial mediator. Mediation is available for:

1. Mediation of State Complaint - the California Department of Education is required to offer mediation to the parent or the local educational agency (LEA) but both must agree, and participation is voluntary.
2. Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Mediation Only - Parent or LEA may file for OAH mediation only. Participation is voluntary.

Parents may seek mediation alone or separate from due process, or they may participate in mediation pending a due process hearing. Mediation cannot be used to delay parents right to a due process hearing.

### **To File a Complaint Against Your School District**

If parents believe their child's school district has violated the law, they may file a complaint with the California Department of Education. The Department must investigate complaints alleging violations of noncompliance with IDEA, state special education laws, or regulations, and issue a written report of findings within 60 days of receiving the complaint.

### **To Be Informed of School Discipline and Alternative Placement**

There are specific rules regarding the suspension and expulsion of students with IEPs. Generally, a student with a disability may be suspended or placed in an alternative educational setting to the same extent that these options apply to students without disabilities.

If the student with a disability is in such a placement for more than ten days, an IEP meeting must be held to consider the appropriateness of the child's current placement and the extent to which the disability is the cause of the misconduct. Regardless of the child's placement, the district must provide FAPE

### **To Be Informed of Policies Regarding Children Who Attend Private Schools**

School districts are responsible for identifying, locating and assessing students with disabilities enrolled in private schools by their parents. However, school districts are not required to provide special education or related services to these students. There is no entitlement for services, though some private schools and students attending private schools may receive some services from the school district.