



## Division of Special Education Update

### COVID-19 Update

As you know, on March 16, 2020 in response to the national pandemic emergency due to the threat of COVID-19 and in prevention of it spreading, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) closed its school facilities. Shortly thereafter, on March 19, 2020, both the City of Los Angeles and the State of California issued “Safer at Home” orders, asking all but essential workers to stay home in an effort to address COVID-19 issues. On April 13, 2020, LAUSD extended school facility closures through Summer 2020. As a result of these events, all LAUSD students have transitioned from learning on-site in school facilities to an @ home learning continuity plan (also referred to as distance learning).

While we understand that face-to-face instruction and services are not able to be provided at this time, our mission continue to be implementing student IEPs to the greatest extent possible. The District’s teachers, service providers, and staff are encouraged to connect through distance learning with students using multiple means such as:

- Phone Calls/E-Communication
- Zoom, Skype, or any other virtual conference platforms
- Emails

Lastly, listed below are progress points we would like to share:

- Created and implemented professional development (PD) for teachers on holding virtual IEPs and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in a blended learning model and accessibility features of the most commonly used platforms.
- Conducted 10,283 Virtual IEP team meetings as of 5/21/20.
- Created and implemented online PD for paraprofessionals on supporting students on the alternate curriculum, assisting with UUDL, and supports for dyslexia.
- Created and implemented a 6-part behavior training series for 8,300 special education paraprofessionals to complete asynchronously starting 5/20/20. As of 5/22/20, 2,000+ (~24%) paraprofessionals have completed the first two modules of the training.
- Created webpages for both parents and staff that specifically address COVID 19 procedures, expectations and resources.

#### [COVID-19 Parent Resources Webpage](#)

As of 05/21/20, the parent site has had 43,920 views.

- Parent site contains resources categorized in the following three areas: Infant/Preschool, Instruction for students on both Core and Alternate Curriculum, and Related Services.
- Created a training video for parents on how to participate in a virtual IEP team meeting, narrated in both English and Spanish and posted on the Division of Special Education (DSE) and Parent Community Services websites.

#### [COVID-19 Parent Resources Webpage](#)

- Created and sent out via email Parent Newsletter which will be sent out on a monthly basis.
- Drafted and distributed a Prior Written Notice (PWN) to all parents of students with disabilities that describes how LAUSD will implement their child’s IEP to the maximum extent feasible while receiving instruction through @ Home Learning Continuity .
- Created and implemented special education PD for parents at each Local District to support parents with navigating through this challenging and unique time.



- Participated in various Zoom town hall meetings hosted by Board Members and/or Local Districts throughout LAUSD to help address concerns from communities within the District.
- In collaboration with the Division of Instruction, developed an automated process for the distribution of Certificates of Completion for the Class of 2020.

### **Extended School Year (ESY) 2020**

Dates: June 29 - July 24, 2020

ESY is available to all students with disabilities found eligible through their IEP. Due to District school facility closures, this summer's program will emulate the current @ Home Learning Continuity Plan and further details are forthcoming.

Enrollment applications are available at [parentportal.lausd.net](https://parentportal.lausd.net)

### **Higher Education Collaboration**

The DSE, led by Lela Rondeau, is meeting on a quarterly basis with the Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) from surrounding areas. Frequent participants include CSULA, CSUDH, CSUN, Loyola Marymount, USC and UCLA. The purpose of the quarterly meetings is to discuss the LAUSD's progress toward increasing inclusive practices in our schools, the creation of tools and guidance to assist with inclusion, and reflecting on teacher preparation both in the District and in the IHE to better support inclusive practices.

### **2020-21 School Year-Progress Monitoring**

In preparation for next school year, the DSE would like to propose that the CAC consider including Special Education SPPI Data Review as a topic. Given that there are a wide array of data points to discuss, we suggest two options:

#### **Option 1:**

Hold quarterly meetings that are dedicated to all of the District's top priorities/initiatives: For example, elements would include, but not be limited to: Significant Disproportionality, Least Restrictive Environment, Timelines/Support and Services, Instruction, etc. At the beginning of the year, we can meet with the CAC to discuss the Indicators and determine which CAC meeting would be designated to cover each Indicator.

#### **Option 2:**

Provide monthly data snap shots of Indicators in the Division's Special Education Report communication. This will ensure that District parents are receiving the latest data regarding performance. Please note that many of the Indicators are provided annually therefore the data is stagnant.



### SELPA/CDE Information

#### Local Plan Development

The California Department of Education (CDE) has allowed LAUSD to utilize the current Local Plan template until June 30, 2021. Therefore, our previous task of transferring our current Local Plan into the new statewide template has been extended until next year. The DSE has begun to have initial planning dialogues with PCS and is looking to engage in this process ~~immediately~~ upon the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

#### Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the California Department of Education has adjusted important LCAP timelines and due dates.

Due Dates	Required Submissions
July 1, 2020	Adoption of District COVID-19 response written report to community and Annual Budget
December 15, 2020	Due Date for District Adoption of 2020-21 One-year LCAP
January 14, 2021	County Office approval for 2020-21 One Year LCAP
July 2021	Due date for 2021-24 Three Year LCAP

Ultimately, the 3 year LCAP due date of July 1, 2020, will be extended until next summer. LAUSD will be creating a separate work group for parents of students with disabilities to provide feedback on the LCAP. In collaboration with Dr. Chau's office, the DSE and PCS will set up these vital working groups.