



# Division of Special Education

Intentionally Designing and Delivering Inclusive Environments at Every Opportunity to Maximize Learning

## August 25, 2021 – CAC Meeting – Q & A

### QUESTIONS

### ANSWERS

#### QUESTIONS DURING THE SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE REPORT

<p>1. Has the School Family and Support Services office (SFSS) taken over the function of the Complaint Response Unit (CRU)?</p>	<p>Yes, <a href="#">SFSS</a> continues the functionalities of the former Complaint Response Unit as of January 1, 2020.</p>
<p>2. Where do we submit our questions/concerns?</p>	<p>Concerns are encouraged to be voiced with your child's case carrier and/or school administrator. Parents are also able to contact us at (213) 241-6701.</p>
<p>3. How is the call categorized when an issue hasn't been resolved? For example, when the district is unable to find a satisfactory resolution for the student &amp; parent or is forced to legally escalate their dispute with the district?</p>	<p>Concerns are logged and categorized appropriately.</p>
<p>4. Parents at non-public schools that are funded by LAUSD are being advised that there are no transportation services available and that they can get reimbursed. However, many parents are not able to do so. Transportation is included in their IEP for most if not all District funded NPS students and so what can be done?</p>	<p>Parents in these situations are encouraged to contact <a href="#">SFSS</a> for support. We have a team that can connect with our Nonpublic School partners to help resolve the transportation concern.</p>
<p>5. How will LAUSD handle the massive requests for IEP meetings since it is required to hold an IEP if a parent wants to enroll their student at City of Angels? What supports are being provided at the school site level to understand this process?</p>	<p>LAUSD conducts over 120,000 IEPs annually. The Division of Special Education has funded additional Special Education support during the summer and after work hours to support the completion of IEPs needed to address requests for enrollment in independent study. IEPs are individualized and vary in the length of time to conduct.</p>



# Division of Special Education

Intentionally Designing and Delivering Inclusive Environments at Every Opportunity to Maximize Learning

<p><b>6.</b> What about students who are not offered placement at City of Angels? LAUSD needs to find another way to offer online learning.</p>	<p>One of the primary responsibilities of an IEP team is to discuss and offer appropriate instructional settings for students to ensure access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Due to the expiration of SB 98, the District is not able to provide online instruction at this time, unless the student's IEP team offers this modality in the IEP. If there is disagreement over the IEP offer, dispute resolution processes, including alternative dispute resolution, informal dispute resolution, mediation, and/or due process may be accessed.</p>
<p><b>7.</b> How are schools prepared to handle student cases that require specialized medical support? For example, the delivery and care of students who use a tracheostomy tube.</p>	<p>The Division of Special Education and Nursing have a strong partnership and work collaboratively to ensure all protocols students require can be provided safely, maximizing student and staff safety.</p>
<p><b>8.</b> What is the criteria for Home-Hospital and independent study options?</p>	<p>Carlson Home-Hospital services can be provided to students with documented medical conditions that limit their ability to access in-person instruction. Carlson Home-Hospital placement requires IEP team consideration. For more information contact <a href="#">Carlson Home Hospital School</a> at (818) 509-8759.</p>
<p><b>9.</b> What are the consequences in LAUSD for students currently attending an online program?</p>	<p>There is no penalty for enrolling in independent study. The City of Angels Online Independent Study Program is a fully-accredited school. Students are expected to complete a similar level of educational progress as they would when participating in in-person instruction.</p>
<p><b>10.</b> Where can we find a list of the schools currently under DVR?</p>	<p>The list can be shared upon request.</p>
<p><b>11.</b> How is the DVR review and selection processes done? Are schools from each LD being represented? Can stakeholders provide you with a list of schools that have a history of being non-compliant for many families?</p>	<p>The District Validation Review (DVR) is LAUSD's special education school review process to identify school-level compliance. The District uses this process to monitor schools' compliance with special education legal requirements and District policies and procedures. Approximately, 15 to 20% of schools from all local districts, including independent charter schools within the SELPA are reviewed annually based on a four-year cycle. Schools may be reviewed before their four-year cycle, based on criteria set forth by the Division of Special Education for schools demonstrating a need for additional support and review.</p>
<p><b>12.</b> Compensatory services were not provided to many students and were out of compliance. How is this being addressed?</p>	<p>The topic of compensatory services must be discussed at IEP team meetings, as appropriate, and can be brought up by any IEP team member. Parents can contact their school administrator if they would like to address it at an IEP team meeting.</p>



# Division of Special Education

Intentionally Designing and Delivering Inclusive Environments at Every Opportunity to Maximize Learning

<b>13.</b> Would recoupment take place during school hours? How are these services integrated throughout the school day?	Providers and parents can work together to outline a plan when recoupment services can take place. If parents are having difficulties connecting with providers, parents can reach out to school administration and/or call 213-241-6701 for support.
<b>14.</b> How are students in the independent study program receiving their services?	Students with disabilities are receiving their related services as indicated in their IEP.
<b>15.</b> Parents have shared they had to spend hours driving to different schools to get tested for COVID. Where are parent volunteers and parent leaders able to get COVID testing?	Parent volunteers have access to COVID testing at their Local District designated testing sites. For a list of COVID testing sites, please visit <a href="https://achieve.lausd.net/covidtesting">https://achieve.lausd.net/covidtesting</a> . For additional information refer to the <a href="#">Volunteer Guide</a> Page #2.
<b>16.</b> What is the district doing to provide alternative COVID testing for students who can't do the swab testing?	While we recommend the use of nasal swabs, anyone can request a saliva test at all test sites if they prefer. Both tests are what's known as PCR tests, the gold standard for COVID-19 testing. For more information visit <a href="https://achieve.lausd.net/covidfaq">https://achieve.lausd.net/covidfaq</a>
<b>17.</b> When will schools be getting nursing staff for our schools as a part of the reopening of schools and the pandemic?	The district continues to recruit and hire nurses.
<b>18.</b> What can be done about the legislative gap between SB 98 and AB 130? Can LAUSD act on its own to fill it in or does this need to come from the top? What is LAUSD doing to prevent further backslide of our special education students?	LAUSD and any other Local Education Agency is bound to adhere to AB130. Under this legislation we are not allowed to deviate from our two instructional settings (In-person or Independent Study).
<b>19.</b> Is there any legislation pending to extend the state distance learning law?	"We are not aware of any such pending legislation."
<b>20.</b> Is direct instruction included in the learning activities for students who are waiting for an IEP Team Meeting to take place?	Families of students requesting the on-line program and who are waiting for an IEP to be facilitated have received a Prior Written Notice (PWN). This PWN explains how students with disabilities can access the interim learning activities.
<b>21.</b> Is there a possibility for students with IEPs to be offered a hybrid model option at their School of Attendance (SOA)? If the SOA is able to provide such a schedule/model, this would accommodate students' needs and still be able to attend their SOA versus a new school system.	Due to changes in state law we are not able to offer distance learning as was allowed last year. In place of distance learning, AB130 now requires all school districts in California to make an independent study program available.



# Division of Special Education

Intentionally Designing and Delivering Inclusive Environments at Every Opportunity to Maximize Learning

<p><b>22.</b> How are families informed of their right to request an IEP and to request City of Angels as an option?</p>	<p>Blackboard connect announcements were sent to families, information was provided in town hall meetings and the Division of Special Education posted an announcement on the website's homepage to inform families about the City of Angels Independent Study/Virtual Academy before the beginning of the school year. The announcement, still posted, provides families with a brief description of the online program and the requirement to hold an IEP team meeting to discuss the appropriateness of the placement request. LAUSD is committed to ensuring the parents of students with disabilities are aware of their IEP rights. A Parent's Guide to Special Education Services is posted on the homepage, Parents webpage and a dedicated webpage where all of the Division of Special Education's publications may be accessed. <a href="https://achieve.lausd.net/spedBrochures">https://achieve.lausd.net/spedBrochures</a></p>
<p><b>23.</b> What is being done to support or increase accessibility to the LAUSD website during high traffic periods? For example, not being able to access the daily pass.</p>	<p>The Daily Pass accessibility is monitored, and its capacity has been addressed to ensure that all can generate a pass to enter school.</p>
<p><b>QUESTIONS DURING THE CITY OF ANGELS (COA) PRESENTATION</b></p>	
<p><b>1.</b> What kind of services and accommodations is City of Angels offering to students with IEPs and 504s? Are they offering any at all? How are students in the independent study program receiving their services?</p>	<p>Students with disabilities are receiving their educational program, including related services and accommodations/modifications, as prescribed in their IEP.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Can City of Angels offer related services virtually? Or special education curriculum? What services are being offered – BII, APE, SAI, OT, Speech?</p>	<p>Related services can be offered while students participate in independent study (City of Angels). Services may be offered in person or virtually, depending on the needs of the student, as determined through the IEP process.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Is there a general education opportunity at City of Angels for students with IEPs?</p>	<p>Yes, students with disabilities can be included in the General Education setting at City of Angels based on the offer in their IEP.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> What is being done for the 1,400 students who want online education, but their IEP status is still unresolved?</p>	<p>The DSE is monitoring the progress of all IEPs for students whose families have indicated an interest in Online Independent Study. Each Local District/Community of School is also monitoring the progress by reviewing their data and supporting schools to offer and hold meetings.</p>



# Division of Special Education

Intentionally Designing and Delivering Inclusive Environments at Every Opportunity to Maximize Learning

5. Why were IEP meetings not held before the beginning of the school year?	Due to schedules, this was not always possible. However, some IEP team meetings were held before the school year began. Since school started, school site teams have been working diligently to complete IEPs.
6. When will these questions be addressed and answered? Is it possible to get the questions and answers in written form to share with other parents/stakeholders?	We will address all questions and follow the protocol set up last year. Questions and answers will be given to PCS to be disseminated to the CAC.
7. What are students who are not able to attend in person supposed to do while waiting for mediation?	Following the IEP team meeting held to discuss placement in independent study, students will be expected to participate in the program set forth by their IEP team.
8. Who is the best person to contact if parents have questions about the services offered at City of Angels?	Parents are encouraged to reach out to their school administration as a starting point. Also, each LD has a designated Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Specialist to support with Independent Study for students with disabilities. The Special Education Local District directory is available on the Division of Special Education <i>Contact Us</i> webpage. ( <a href="#">DSE Directory</a> )
9. What happens to students who are losing instructional time due to enrollment delays with the City of Angels?	Any instructional time lost due to enrollment delays can be discussed at an IEP team meeting. Parents always have the right to request an IEP team meeting.
10. What happens if a parent requests a change of placement with the COA, but the IEP team, without the exception of the parent, decides against the change of placement?	Placement discussions and offers are discussed at the IEP team meeting by the entire team. Each IEP team member plays a vital role in helping the team decide the Least Restrictive Environment for the students and supports/services needed to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education.
<b>Additional Questions For PCS</b>	
1. Can you please post the City of Angels presentation and the recording on the CAC website?	Click on the link below to access the: <a href="#">Recorded webinar in English</a> <a href="#">Recorded webinar in Spanish</a> <a href="#">Division of Special Education Presentation in Spanish and English</a>