



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REFERENCE GUIDE**

TITLE: Procedures Related to Private Behavioral Support Services through Private Health Care Plans/Insurance Policies for Persons with Autism or Other Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD)

NUMBER: REF-5967.0

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ROUTING
All Schools
Instructional Area
Superintendents
Instructional Directors
Special Education Support
Center Administrators
School Site Administrators
All Staff Working with
Students with Disabilities

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Reference Guide is to: (1) inform District employees of a recent addition to State law (Senate Bill No. 946), which requires private health insurance providers to provide behavioral support services to persons with autism or other pervasive developmental disorders (PDD); and (2) to provide school staff with procedures to follow when private insurance companies, providers, etc., request access to students with autism or other PDDs for the purpose of assessing for or providing private behavioral services.

MAJOR CHANGES: Not applicable.

BACKGROUND: The California Code of Regulations has been amended to require private health care plans/insurance policies to provide persons with autism or other PDDs access to certain private behavior-related services. These private services are separate and apart from educationally related services provided through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

District Provided Services

Under federal law, school districts are required to assess students in all areas of suspected disability to ensure that appropriate supports are provided for students to benefit from the instructional program. The law defines these services as “educationally related.” Educationally related services are provided by staff employed by or contracted by the District. These District employees and contractors must have specific credentials and/or licenses required by the State of California. Educationally related services are provided at a school site or other location by District employees or District-contracted personnel. These services are provided to support the instructional program and are provided during the school day unless otherwise specified in a student’s IEP.



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BACKGROUND Privately Provided Behavioral Services (cont.):

Privately provided behavioral services are different from educationally related services. With this new law, it is possible that school site personnel may receive private assessment reports which have been conducted as part of a student's private annual physical examination or as requested by the student's private physician. These are considered privately provided health assessments.

As a result of this new law, children with autism and other PDDs whose families have private medical insurance plans, are entitled to various services which now include private behavioral services. These services neither replace nor supplant District services offered on the IEP.

PROCEDURES:

I. REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO STUDENTS FOR ASSESSMENT FOR PRIVATELY PROVIDED BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

- A. Classroom Observations: With written parental consent and in accordance with District policies, private providers may observe students in the classroom setting for short periods of time. The prior notice, duration and frequency requirements of these observations must comply with District and individual school policies related to school/classroom visitations/observations.
- B. Teacher Conferences: With appropriate written parental consent, school staff may meet with private providers to share information about a student. These conferences must not interfere with the instructional day.

II. IEP TEAM CONSIDERATION OF PRIVATE BEHAVIORAL SERVICES ASSESSMENT REPORTS

If private assessment reports developed under the direction of a physician are presented to the school for inclusion in the IEP, the IEP team must review and consider the content. For specific procedures, please refer to the "Independent Evaluations" section of the *Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual*.

III. REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO STUDENTS FOR PROVISION OF PRIVATELY PROVIDED BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

Schools must not permit private service providers access to students during the instructional day, as this disrupts the educational program.

RELATED RESOURCES:

- *Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual*
- Senate Bill (SB) 946 (July 1, 2012)

ASSISTANCE:

For assistance or further information please contact Sharon Jarrett, Director, Special Education Service Center-Operations at (213) 241-6701 or via email at sharon.jarrett@lausd.net.