

SELPA Governance Bill Language

Assembly Bill 1517 Assembly Member Gallagher
Special Education: Special Education Local Plan Area Governance, Accountability, and
Transparency

Existing law requires that each special education local plan area, commencing July 1, 2027, include an annual assurances support plan (EDC 56122(c)) within its local plan. This bill would instead require the annual assurances support plan to be provided commencing July 1, 2024 and include a description of the monitoring activities and professional development provided by the special education local plan area to support improved outcomes for students with disabilities.

Existing law requires each special education local plan area to submit a local plan meeting State requirements (EDC 56205). This bill would add local plan requirements that include documentation of the special education local plan area responsibilities related to technical assistance and monitoring activities related to improved outcomes for students with disabilities.

Existing law requires that the superintendent of the school district consults with the special education local plan area administrator to determine that specific actions for individuals with exceptional needs are included in the local control and accountability plan or annual update to the LCAP, and are consistent with strategies included in the annual assurances support plan for the education of individuals with exceptional needs (EDC 52062(a)(5)). This bill would add requirements that the superintendent consults with the SELPA administrator to determine specific actions needed for individuals with exceptional needs, as required, for differentiated assistance based on California Dashboard performance for students with disabilities.

Existing law requires that for any school district for which one or more pupil subgroups identified pursuant to Section 52052 meets the criteria established pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 52064.5, the county superintendent of schools shall provide technical assistance focused on building the school district's capacity to develop and implement actions and services responsive to pupil and community needs (EDC 52071(c)). This bill would require the county superintendent of schools to include special education local plan area administrators as part of the technical assistance support it provides for students with disabilities identified as a pupil subgroup pursuant to Section 52052.

Intent Language:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) special education local plan areas provide technical assistance, professional development, direct services, and monitoring activities to its member local educational agencies (LEAs) as directed by the governing body of the special education local plan area and the Department
- (b) special education local plan areas provide participating LEAs support for improved outcomes for students with disabilities in alignment with the statewide system of support

(c) special education local plan areas are integral to the Statewide System of Support and, in collaboration with the Department and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), they are focused on improving outcomes for students with disabilities and addressing student needs in various specialized areas by strengthening SELPA support to LEAs while ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations.

SECTION 2. Section 56122(c) of the Education Code is amended to read:

(c) Commencing **July 1, 2027 2024**, each local plan shall include an annual assurances support plan. The purpose of the annual assurances support plan is to demonstrate how the special education local plan area and its participating agencies are coordinating for purposes of assuring effective outcomes for pupils with disabilities. The department shall develop **and publish** a template for the annual assurances support plan by **July 1, 2023**. The annual assurances support plan shall include all of the following elements:

(1) A description of how the governing board of the special education local plan area has determined that the special education local plan area will support participating agencies in achieving the goals, actions, and services identified in their local control and accountability plans.

(2) A description of how the governing board of the special education local plan area has determined that the special education local plan area will connect its participating agencies in need of technical assistance to the statewide system of support, **including technical assistance offered through the Special Education Resource Leads.**

(3) A brief description of the services, technical assistance, and support the governing board of the special education local plan area has determined that it will provide in meeting the requirements under paragraphs (1) to (21), inclusive, of subdivision (a) of Section 56205.

(4) A description of how the governing board of the special education local plan area has determined the technical assistance, direct services, monitoring activities and professional development the special education local plan area will provide its participating agencies to support improved outcomes for students with disabilities in alignment with the statewide system of support.

(5) A description of how the governing board of the special education local plan area has determined it will recruit, maintain and support an active Community Advisory Committee, including involvement in an advisory manner of the development of all sections of the local plan and participation in the local control accountability plans of their respective member agencies.

SECTION 3. Section 56205 of the Education Code is amended to read:

(e) Each special education local plan area submitting a local plan to the Superintendent under this part shall ensure that it provides technical assistance to its member LEAs to support monitoring activities as directed by the Department. Technical assistance will include, but not limited to:

1. Conduct professional development, as directed by the governing board of the special education local plan area, addressing identified areas for improvement by the Department
2. Participate, in collaboration with county offices of education in differentiated assistance activities for students with disabilities
3. Participate in activities designed to improve LEA performance on the California Dashboard for students with disabilities
4. Under the direction of the Department, provide leadership and coordination of compliance and improvement monitoring activities for LEAs in need of universal, targeted, and intensive supports
5. Coordinate, review, provide feedback, and certify IEP Implementation Monitoring, as required by the Department
6. Coordinate, review, provide feedback, and certify CALPADS special education data, as required by the Department

SECTION 4. Section 52062 of the Education Code is amended to read:

(a)(6) The superintendent of each school district shall consult with its special education local plan area administrator or administrators to determine which specific actions are needed to support outcomes on the California Dashboard when the school district is determined to be in need of differentiated assistance for performance of students with disabilities.

SECTION 5. Section 52071(c) of the Education Code is amended to read:

(c) For any school district for which one or more pupil subgroups identified pursuant to Section 52052 meets the criteria established pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 52064.5, the county superintendent of schools shall provide technical assistance focused on building the school district's capacity to develop and implement actions and services responsive to pupil and community needs, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(1) Assisting the school district to identify its strengths and weaknesses in regard to the state priorities described in subdivision (d) of Section 52060. This shall include working collaboratively with the school district to review performance data on the state and local indicators included in the California School Dashboard authorized by subdivision (f) of Section 52064.5 and other relevant local data, and to identify effective, evidence-based programs or practices that address any areas of weakness.

(2) Working collaboratively with the school district to secure assistance from an academic, programmatic, or fiscal expert or team of experts to identify and implement effective programs and practices that are designed to improve performance in any areas of weakness identified by the school district. The county superintendent of schools, in consultation with the school district, may solicit another service provider, which may include, but is not limited to, a school district, county office of education, or charter school, to act as a partner to the school district in need of technical assistance.

(3) Obtaining from the school district timely documentation demonstrating that it has completed the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2), or substantially similar activities,

or has selected another service provider pursuant to subdivision (f) to work with the school district to complete the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2), or substantially similar activities, and ongoing communication with the school district to assess the school district's progress in improving pupil outcomes.

(4) Requesting that the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence provide advice and assistance to the school district, pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 52074.

(5) The county superintendent of schools shall consult with and include its special education local plan area administrator or designee as part of the expert technical assistance team when students with disabilities have been identified as a pupil subgroup pursuant to Section 52052.