



Madera-Mariposa SELPA Special Education Local Plan Area

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What is a SELPA?

Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) are geographic regions created to ensure special education services for children residing within the region's boundaries. Together with member local education agencies (LEAs) the SELPA encourages collaboration between general and special education in order to provide early intervention and ongoing supports for children.

The SELPA facilitates appropriate education services for individuals with disabilities by working cooperatively with other public and private agencies to support a full complement of special education services for students.

Responsibilities of the SELPA include:

- Ensuring Program Availability for all Children with Disabilities
- Governance Committees
- Assistance with Compliance Requirements
- Fiscal Management
- Curriculum Development and Support
- Regionalized Services and Program Specialists
- Program Evaluation
- Community Awareness
- and much more!

The role of the SELPA is to ensure that each child with a disability receives the appropriate programs and services. A continuum of supports are available to help each child access his or her education.

The SELPA provides supports to local education agencies (LEA) through:

- Training to LEA staff, agency staff and parents
- Curriculum/program development and support
- Interagency coordination
- Evaluation of programs and services
- Ensuring compliance with State and Federal regulations
- Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Consultation and direct support to LEAs and parents
- Budget planning

SELPA Responsibilities

The Madera-Mariposa SELPA is responsible for the implementation of the Madera-Mariposa Special Education Local Plan and to ensure a free appropriate public education to all students with identified disabilities according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The Madera-Mariposa SELPA is a two county SELPA, serving over 3,700 students with disabilities. A full continuum of services is provided to students ranging in age from 0 to 22, with varying disabilities.

The Madera-Mariposa SELPA office is available as a support to students, parents and educators regarding special education issues.

Legal Concepts of Special Education

Child Find

All children with disabilities or suspected disabilities, in need of special education services and related services, are to be identified, located and evaluated by their local school LEA.

Free Appropriate Public Education

A free and appropriate public education is available to all children identified with disabilities between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21).

Least Restrictive Environment

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with typically developing peers.

Due Process

Every effort is made to resolve disputes with parents through local approaches. These dispute resolution approaches include a continuum of resolution options.

Individualized Educational Planning

An Individualized Educational Program (IEP) or an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed, reviewed and revised for each child with a disability who requires special education and related services in order to benefit from his/her individualized education program.

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