

**Local Plan for Special Education
and
Joint Powers Agreement
for the
Whittier Area Cooperative Special
Education Program (WACSEP)**





Local Plan for Special Education

Section B: Governance and Administration

Background

- Under the trailer bill language of the adopted budget in 2018, AB 1808, the Governor required all Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) to develop a local plan that conformed to a template to be provided to by the California Department of Education (CDE).
- CDE developed Section B for the Local Plan titled “Governance and Administration” to be used by all SELPAs in the state.

Background

All SELPAs are required to submit a local plan to the California Department of Education (CDE) for approval.

- The purpose of the plan is:
 - to assure access to special education and related services for all individuals with exceptional needs residing within the geographic areas served by the plan; and
 - to assure compliance with all federal and state codes and statutes
- The Whittier Area Cooperative SELPA (WACSEP) Local Plan was last fully revised in 2007, and at that time obtained subsequent approval by all participating LEAs (Districts) within the SELPA.

Development and Amendment Process

- A Local Plan Committee was formed in WACSEP consistent with the required stakeholders per education code.
- The Local Plan was updated cooperatively by a committee of representatives of special and general education teachers and administrators selected by the groups they represent and with participation by parent members of the WACSEP Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

Approval Process

For approval of the developed or amended Local Plan Section B, the SELPA must:

- Seek approval of the plan from the SELPA governing body (approved by WACSEP Joint Powers Board on October 28, 2020);
- Obtain signature from the superintendent of the Administrative Unit (AU) for the SELPA;
- Obtain signatures from the CAC chairperson;
- Submit the plan to each participating LEA for governing board approval;
- Obtain signature from the LA County Office of Ed. superintendent; and
- Submit the plan to CDE for final approval.

Local Plan Section B: Governance and Administration - Development Timeline

Date	Group	Task
September 2019	SELPA Director and Staff	Reviewed Local Plan and Compare to Template
September - October 2019	SELPA Director and Staff	Worked with Districts and CAC to determine who will serve on Local Plan Committee, got contact information and send out letter and invitation with scheduled meetings
November - December 2019	Local Plan Workgroup	Reviewed current Local Plan for required components and needed revisions.
November 2019 - March 2020	SELPA Office Manager	Prepared updated Local Plan with revisions
January - April 2020	Local Plan Workgroup	Reviewed additional sections and edits completed to date
April 2020	CAC	Presented Draft Plan to CAC for review of Section B
May - September 2020	CAC	Provided input - SELPA Director completed final edits Obtain signature of CAC Chair
October 2020	Joint Powers Board Meeting	Approval of Local Plan
November 2020 - March 2021	Governing Board of Each LEA within WACSEP	Approval of Local Plan
March - May 2021	SELPA Director	Submit to County Office of Education after approval by all Governing Boards of each LEA within WACSEP
By June 30, 2021	SELPA Director	Submit to CDE for Approval

Required Elements of the Local Plan to be Submitted to CDE

- Section A: Contacts and Certifications - submitted with applicable Local Plan sections
- Section B: Governance and Administration
- Section C: Annual Assurances Support Plan*
- Section D: Annual Budget Plan and Section E: Annual Services Plan - submitted annually by June 30 - last approved by JPB on June 18, 2020
 - Attachments - included with Annual Budget Plan and Annual Services Plan

* Not due until July 1, 2023

Section B - Governance and Administration

Composed of a description of WACSEP's Governance and Administrative Structure

Includes four sections:

- Special Education Local Plan Area - Local Plan Requirements
- Policies, Procedures, and Programs
- Administration of Regionalized Operations and Services
- Special Education Local Plan Area Services

Questions regarding the WACSEP Local Plan?





Joint Powers Agreement

Background

- The Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program (WACSEP) became a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with a Joint Powers Agreement, in October 1973.
- When originally created, the JPA included the current seven member districts and Lowell Joint School District.
- The Agreement was amended in 1980 due to the substantial amendments and expansion of laws respecting the education of individuals with exceptional needs.
- In March 1988, an amendment was created, and agreed upon by all districts, to remove Lowell Joint School District from WACSEP.
- No other changes have been made to the Joint Powers Agreement since 1988.

Purpose of the WACSEP Joint Powers Agreement

Clarifies “...the rights and obligations, [of the member districts of WACSEP], with respect to one another for the continued education and maintenance of a program of special education for person with exceptional need pursuant to California Education Code Section 56205, *et seq.*, and Section 56195.7”

Reasons for an Updated Agreement

- The education code pertaining to the education of students with disabilities has been updated due to changes in the law.
- Responsibilities and descriptions have been updated to match the current Ed. Code.
- Special education terminology has been updated to current language.
- Duties of the JPA that were no longer applicable (e.g., overseeing transportation) were removed.

Major Sections of the Agreement

- Functions of WACSEP
- Membership of WACSEP
- Membership and responsibilities of the Joint Powers Board (JPB), including the roles of the officers
- Duties of the SELPA Executive Director and Administrative Unit
- Responsibilities of the Community Advisory Council (CAC)
 - Congruent with CAC By-laws
- Process/Requirements
 - Withdrawal/Expulsion from the JPA
 - Termination of the agreement
 - Disposition of property and funds
 - Amendments
 - Liability
 - Enforcement of Agreement

Process for Approval

- Approval by Joint Powers Board - $\frac{2}{3}$ majority required
 - Approved on October 28, 2020
- Approval by the Board of Education for each Member District
 - Superintendent from each Member District will sign the agreement on behalf of their district after Board approval
- Joint Powers Agreement will be filed with the Secretary of State

Thank you!

Any questions?

