

SELPA Legislative Day Highlights

LAUSD attendees were:

Nargis Merchant, Student Fiscal Service Representative
Dr. Aaron Jeffery, Director, Special Education Operations
Lisa Kendrick, Director, SELPA
Leah Brackins, CAC Parent Facilitator
Sharnell Blevins, CAC Secretary
Enrique Ruacho, Government Relations

We attended the SELPA plenary session. Speakers included:

Betty Jo Wessinger, Director and Support Student Services, Folsom Cordova Unified School District
Kristin Wright, Director, Special Education Division, California Department of Education
Kathy Skeels, Chair, California SELPA Administrators Association
David Toston, Chair Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education
Paris Trudea-Sikes, Parent of Liam Sikes, Santa Cruz City Unified School District
JC Aquirre, Student, Merced County Office of Education, Scholars Charter School
Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell

We met the following Assembly Member, Senate Member, Governor, or their staff:

Governor Jerry Brown
Assembly Member Dante Acosta
State Senator Ben Allen
Assembly Member Raul Bocanegra
Assembly Member Autumn Burke
State Senator Ed Hernandez
State Senator Robert Hertzberg
Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer
State Senator Ricardo Lara
State Senator Tony Mendoza
State Senator Mike Morrell
Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian
Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell
State Senator Anthony Portantino
Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Assembly Member Blanca Rubio

We spoke about LAUSD wanting equity in special education funding, pre-school (ages 3-6) funding for special education, LAUSD being a destination district for special education, general education enrollment declining and special education increasing, demographics of special education, and profile of a special education student.