



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 22, 2025,
10:00 a.m.
Minutes

I. Call to Order

Ingrid Levy, Chairperson, was called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and reviewed Interpretation service available. Kristie Lacy, Vice-Chairperson, reviewed the meeting norms and norms of collaboration.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The salute to the flag was led by Theresa Quarry in English and Gabriela Rangel in Spanish.

III. Public Comments

Shanita Rogers, Parliamentarian, lead public comment.

- John Perrón
- Shirley Gruber
- Dalia Gutiérrez
- Jaqueline Casas
- María Montoya

IV. President's Report Ingrid Levy, Chairperson

Ingrid Levy, President, shared her report and thanked the members for their participation in this committee. We have been reviewing the committee bylaws and offered two sessions dedicated to discussing the revisions. I thank those who attended and encourage those who could not to review them on their own so we can proceed to a vote. Your commitment is key to our success.

I also want to highlight the recent presentation of special education ambassadors on January 16. During this meeting, members of our committee worked with parent ambassadors to promote the CAC, educate the community, and provide support tools for students with disabilities. The discussion addressed the importance of creating a sense of belonging in schools for children with IEPs, ensuring their rights are respected.

It is essential to know our local staff and the resources available at the school, regional, and district levels. When the necessary help is not obtained, it is important to know whom to contact to expedite solutions and avoid delays that could affect our students.

Additionally, I want to mention the opportunity offered by California State University, Northridge (CSUN), for parents and caregivers to participate in a panel with future teachers. This experience allows sharing perspectives on how to better support students with disabilities. It is an excellent opportunity, and if you are interested, you can contact me. Finally, this spring, we will transition the CAC membership application process to an election-based system. We will share more information soon.

Thank you again for your time and commitment.

V. Division of Special Education (DSE) update.

Dr. José Soto, Executive Director of the Division of Special Education (DSE), extended a warm greeting to all members and shared a few words. Before beginning, he wished to acknowledge the unprecedented crisis facing Los Angeles due to the wildfires. He highlighted the impact not only on students and their families but also on the community and district staff. He expressed his solidarity with those directly affected and reaffirmed the commitment to support students in their recovery and return to school.

He presented updates from the division and reported on the recent Winter Academy, held district-wide before the holidays. Over three days, more than 10,000 students with disabilities participated in academic and enrichment programs, offering a valuable opportunity to reinforce their learning during their free time.

Additionally, he mentioned that the DSE has been working on revising the "IEP and You" and "ITP and You" guides, which are now available in English and Spanish, with access links provided for families. He also announced the release of the "Recovery Guide for the Family Community," a key resource with information and support for families affected by the fires. visit: <https://www.lausd.org/spedBrochures> to access the digital versions available in English and Spanish. He shared the "Recovery Guide for Families and Community": The District has published a guide that provides valuable information and resources during natural disasters. visit: <https://www.lausd.org/Page/19056>. Among other updates, he highlighted that the Local Plan has been translated and is now available online. To view the translated document, visit the "About Us" section of our website. <https://www.lausd.org/Page/16734>. También invitó a los padres a participar en una sesión informativa el próximo 11 de febrero a las 9:00 a. m., donde se abordará la Evaluación Alternativa de California y el camino hacia el diploma alternativo. https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/1220/2024-2025_DSE%20Virtual%20Parent%20Workshops%20Catalog_SPANISH_r10-07-24.pdf. Finally, he reminded everyone about the Special Education Region Ambassador: The TK-12 Instruction Team of the Division of Special Education is facilitating the Special Education Region Ambassador session during January. They have designed a workshop for parents to inform families about how time spent with peers in general education can enhance students' performance and independence. https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/1220/2024-2025%20Special%20Education%20Region%20Ambassador_Bilingual.pdf And once again, here is our contact information. You need to contact us directly. We have provided phone numbers and links to our website. Special Education Division of School and Family Support Services
213-241-6071 <https://www.lausd.org/sped>

VI. Roll call/establish quorum.

Gloria Acosta, Parent Community Facilitator, assisted Secretary Norma Gonzalez by taking roll and establishing a quorum with 20 members and 2 alternates, for a total of 22 members, at 10:49 a.m.

VII. Approval of the minutes: Wednesday, December 4, 2025

Ingrid Levy, President, asked the members to make a motion to approve the minutes from December 4, 2024. Mrs. Theresa Quarry made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting with any additions, deletions, and/or corrections, and Mrs. Nancy Hernández seconded the motion. Mrs. Acosta led the roll call vote: 20 members voted in favor, 0 members voted against, and 0 abstained. The motion was approved.

VIII. Item for Discussion: Update of the CAC Bylaws

Ingrid Levy, President, asked the members to make a motion to approve the revisions to the CAC bylaws.

Mrs. Ana Carrion made a motion to approve the revisions to the CAC bylaws, and Mrs. Gabriela Rangel seconded the motion.

Mrs. Acosta led the roll call vote: 19 members voted in favor, 0 members voted against, and 0 abstained. The motion was approved.

IX. Presentation: Supporting Students with Extensive Support Needs

Dr. James Koontz, Coordinator of Moderate, Severe, and LRE Programs, warmly greeted the CAC members and introduced Mrs. Tiffany Sepe, Specialist in Moderate and Severe Instruction. They expressed their gratitude for the invitation to discuss the recording made regarding support for students with extensive support needs.

During this presentation, they provided an overview, explained some acronyms and their meanings, and reviewed the profiles of students requiring this type of support. Additionally, they delved into the services and resources available for these students and discussed their specific needs in detail.

They also analyzed the curriculum and placement options within various services, as well as the accommodations and supports necessary for these students to access both the curriculum and the community. Furthermore, the topic of diplomas was addressed, including how some students may not be required to meet certain additional requirements set by the school district's governing board.

It is important to note that this. **does not affect** their right to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) until the age of 22.

Regarding alternative assessments, we presented an overview of the alternative curriculum program. This plan is designed for students with extensive support needs who require additional accommodations and modifications to

access the general education curriculum and Common Core State Standards. In this context, the specific supports required were explained in greater detail.

Regarding the continuity of placements within services, it is essential to consider that the general education classroom must always be the first option evaluated by the IEP team. This means the student should be assessed holistically to determine if their needs can be met in a general education setting with appropriate services and supports. Only if this is not feasible should the IEP team explore other options.

This presentation also covered the diploma with alternative assessment eligibility. To qualify, the student must have an active IEP, be a candidate for the California Alternate Assessment (CAA) as determined by their IEP team and recorded in Section K of the IEP document, and have completed courses aligned with state standards.

We understand this topic raises many questions, so we encourage those interested to visit the website, where detailed information about the diploma and parent informational sessions can be found. One of these sessions will be held in March, providing more details through a QR code and additional resources.

Furthermore, more information about the diploma and its requirements is available on the Special Education Division's website and the California Department of Education (CDE) Student Testing Branch page.

Resources

For more information, visit:

- Special Education Division • <https://www.lausd.org/sped>
- Student Testing Division • <https://www.lausd.org/testing>
- Diploma • <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/lr/om082523.asp>

Alignment of the Topic and Connections with the Local Plan

Mrs. Lilia Morán, Compliance Coordinator, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to demonstrate the connection with the local plan, as she has been doing monthly. She also mentioned that the recording of this presentation, along with the complete presentation, all the details described by Mrs. Sepe, the links, and the materials, are available on the Special Education Division website. We invite you to visit and review them. Special Education Division • <https://www.lausd.org/sped> This topic is related to the local plan, specifically to the Local Plan 2024-2027, under Section B of Governance and Administration. At the beginning of the year, when we discussed potential learning topics for this cycle with the CAC, we determined that supporting students with extensive support needs was a priority topic. This aspect is clearly identified in our local plan, again under Section B of Governance and Administration. Mrs. Morán showed the bilingual local plan to the membership and highlighted some key areas, including information shared in the plan. She emphasized that when we talk about student participation in assessments, we can see the various tests that students with disabilities may take throughout their education. This information can be found on page 44 of the local plan, in both the English and Spanish versions. It also includes a section dedicated to adult transition programs, with an overview found on page 72 of the English version and its corresponding Spanish version. Both versions are available, and anyone who requires the Spanish translation can easily access the local plans. <https://www.lausd.org/Page/16734> There was a period of question-and-answers.

X. Subcommittee Updates

The subcommittee meeting will be on January 15, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Students of African American with an IEP

Ajah Webb presented a summary of the January 15 meeting, where Dr. Charles Smith addressed topics such as the management of the National Educational Transfer Office, plans for 2024-2025, and the connection with BICEPS. He also announced the upcoming subcommittee meeting on February 5, where Miss Alberta Moore will discuss career paths based on life skills and pathways for neurodivergent students.

Training and Education/IEP

A presentation was made on the different related services offered by the district and how they can be requested for students' IEPs, as well as the evaluation process and other important aspects. It was a very informative meeting. If anyone was unable to attend, they can visit the CAC website, where they will find the recording. One of the highlighted topics was the right to recreational therapy, as well as the use of assistive technology (CAA). We strive to provide valuable information and support to the community.

Parent Ambassadors

A presentation was made on how community services can connect with parents, and we shared slides from the CAC

at the Young Ambassadors' meetings. We will have three meetings for ambassadors: two in-person and one online. In the next one, two presenters will discuss how administrators can strengthen the relationship with parents. We thank Cristian Smith for his contribution on the importance of parents connecting and actively participating in schools.

XI. Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement

Diane Panossian, Director of the Office of Student, Family, and Community Engagement, would like to inform you about the following resources and updates:

1. Resource Guide: In our monthly newsletter, we highlight a guide with updated daily information to support families affected by the fires and other community hardships. Visit <https://www.lausd.org/schoolupdates>
2. Awareness Campaign: We have relaunched our campaign focused on rights, social-emotional support, and mental health, along with informative webinars. We invite everyone to visit the Family Academy website for more details. <https://www.lausd.org/familyacademy>
3. Family Engagement Policy: We are continuing to review the Title 1 parent and family engagement policy. After receiving feedback in December, we will hold an online session for families on February 12.
<https://www.lausd.org/familyacademy>

Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement

[lausd.org/SFACE](https://www.lausd.org/SFACE)

(213) 481-3350

XI. New Business for possible action for future meetings:

Vice President Christy Lacy shared with the members about topics of interest and mentioned that we will schedule a meeting to discuss upcoming changes, the election process, and any relevant information.

If anyone wishes to add another item to the agenda, please get in touch with us.

XII. Announcements

Announcement from Nancy Hernández, Public Relations Officer:

Our next subcommittee meeting will take place on February 5, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Also, don't forget that the CAC meeting will be on February 19, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was officially adjourned at 12:08 PM.

Submitted by: Norma E. Gonzalez, LAUSD CAC Secretary