

Updates from the Division of Special Education

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

• Extended School Year (ESY)

This summer, our Extended School Year (ESY) services served students across 204 school sites. Of these, 176 were inclusive campuses that welcomed both general education students and students with disabilities, reflecting our commitment to providing learning opportunities in the same environments where students are supported during the regular school year. In addition, services were offered at 10 Career and Transition/Special Education Centers and 17 standalone sites, which included programs for elementary and secondary students, as well as Carlson and Virtual Academy.

Students received the supports outlined in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), including related services, modified core curriculum, and general education curriculum. Special education preschool programs were also integrated and supported on elementary campuses.

We are proud to share that this year marked a major expansion. Last summer, ESY services were offered at just 64 sites, many on separate campuses. The increase to 204 sites meant more inclusive settings and better alignment with the regular school year experience. By the close of ESY, enrollment reached approximately 9,800 students, with about 6,400 maintaining attendance through the program's end.

This growth shows our continued commitment to ensuring that all students, including those with disabilities, have access to meaningful summer learning and support.

• Invitation for LAUSD Special Education Committee from Board Member Karla Griego LAUSD Board Member Karla Griego invited the LAUSD community to apply to join the Special Education Committee, aiming to elevate the concerns and voices of underrepresented communities. The application period closed on August 22, 2025. The opportunity was shared with CAC members, and the announcement was posted on the Division of Special Education website.



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Listen and Learn Campaign Report

During the 2024/2025 school year, LAUSD Division of Special Education launched the Listen and Learn Campaign to hear directly from families, students, educators, and community members about their experiences with special education. The Listen and Learn Campaign report shares what we learned, the themes that emerged, and the steps we are taking to strengthen services for students with disabilities moving forward.

We are grateful to all who shared their voices. A translated version of the report will be available soon. Thank you to CAC members for your input and support! Visit the DSE website to access the full report. You may also click here to access it.

DATA & METRICS

• Year-to-Date IEP Team Meetings Completed

From July 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025, LAUSD has successfully conducted 3,690 IEP team meetings. This value excludes the number of IEP team meetings completed at independent charter schools.

• Students with Disabilities Enrollment

As of August 31, 2025, 74,693 students with disabilities were enrolled in District schools.

PARENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Division of Special Education Virtual Parent Workshops

CAC members and the LAUSD community are invited to attend the series of virtual parent workshops focused on key special education topics selected for this school year. This year offers parents new and engaging training topics to support their child's educational journey. These sessions are designed to support families new to special education and those with more experience.



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Division of Special Education Virtual Parent Workshops

Led by professionals from the Division of Special Education, each session will offer valuable information and provide a chance for you to share your feedback. The topics will include:

- Empowering Families During the IEP Process: An Introduction to Special Education
- The Power of Belonging: Partnering with Families to Nurture Success for Every Student
- Executive Functioning
- Welcome to the LAUSD Community: Navigating Special Education Together
- Supporting Student Mental Health

<u>Please click here to access the 2025-2026 Virtual Parent Workshops flyer</u>, also available on the DSE website at https://sped.lausd.org/apps/pages/parents.

Special Education Region Ambassador

The 2025-2026 Region Ambassador Parent workshops have been scheduled for all Regions. The flyer is at https://sped.lausd.org/apps/pages/parents.

The three sessions for the year include:

- Early Childhood Special Education Programs Overview
- Helping Your Child Thrive: Supporting with Instruction at Home
- Preventing and Responding to Behavior(s) in the Home Setting

For more information on the dates, times, and locations of these sessions within each LAUSD Region, please visit http://lausd.org/ambassadors.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FOR STAFF

• Behavior Support Training for Staff

LAUSD will continue to create positive, supportive learning environments for all students. As part of this effort, we are providing ongoing training to school staff on effective behavior strategies. Designated staff will receive specialized training in Functional Behavior Assessments (FBA), Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and how to develop effective Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP). These training sessions are offered virtually and in person to ensure accessibility and depth.



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

No updates currently.

RESOURCES / UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS

• PlayLA Adaptive Youth Sports Program

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks PlayLA Youth & Adaptive Youth Sports Program is a city-wide initiative that provides access to quality sports programming for youth of all abilities between the ages of 5 and 17. Made possible by an investment from the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), PlayLA is the single largest commitment to youth sports development in California. It serves as a legacy before, during, and after the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Over the next six years, the PlayLA Adaptive Youth Sports Program will offer young people with disabilities access to a variety of adaptive sports programming at no cost in a safe and fun environment at their local recreation centers and neighborhood facilities. https://adaptivesportsla.recreation.parks.lacity.gov/

• District Office of Transition Services (DOTS)

The DOTS office will release its 2025–2026 Parent Training Calendar for all teachers and sites in early October. The calendar will feature parent workshops across all regions, where families can learn about transition planning and post-high school options for students with disabilities.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Phone Number	Website / Email
Division of Special Education		https://sped.lausd.org
School & Family Support Services	213-241-6071	email: spedsfss@lausd.net
Office of Student, Family and		https://families.lausd.org/
Community Engagement	213-481-3350	email: families@lausd.net
LAUSD General Hotline	213-431-4300	https://www.lausd.org/
LAUSD Mental Health Hotline	213-241-3840	https://www.lausd.org/Page/12120
Parent Portal	213-481-3350	https://lausdapp.lausd.net/auth/landing
Tutoring for Individualized Student Learning	213-241-2973	https://tutoring.lausd.org/
		Contact Form: https://tutoring.lausd.org/apps/form/contactus
Technology Access	213-443-1300	https://its.lausd.org/
		If calling, select a language.
		1 = English
		2= Spanish
		After language selection, press:
		1 = Passwords
		5 = Tutoring