



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 23, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ingrid Levy, President, at 10:04 a.m., and she reviewed the available interpretation service. Kristie Lacy, Vice President, reviewed the meeting rules and collaboration guidelines

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The flag salute was led by Carol Parker (English) and Ana Carrión (Spanish).

III. Public Comments

Shanita Rogers, Parliamentarian, lead public comment.

- María Duran
- Dalia Gutiérrez
- Shilys Gruber
- Jaqueline Casas

IV. President's Report Ingrid Levy, Chairperson

During Autism Acceptance and Awareness Month, President Ingrid Levy highlights the importance of sharing experiences and fostering discussions within school communities. She reminds us that autism manifests in many ways and emphasizes the importance of avoiding assumptions while keeping an open mind. She underscores that behaviors in students with autism are a form of communication and should be approached with understanding. Additionally, she calls for support of the CAC's priorities and strengthening collaboration with schools to improve special education. She invites everyone to the LAUSD Art Festival on May 3, where students with disabilities will perform, and encourages committee members to participate and represent the CAC.

V. Greeting from the Chairperson of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board, Scott Schmerelson, Board District 3

Mr. Scott, a board member with experience in special education, speaks about the management and improvement of special education programs in LAUSD. He highlights the importance of avoiding overcrowding in special education classrooms and emphasizes that special education assistants should support, not replace, teachers. He underscores the district's strong reputation for its special education program and the significance of parent involvement and understanding of IEPs.

He advocates for inclusion when appropriate and stresses the need for collaboration between special education and general education teachers in IEPs. He also mentions the role of liaison counselors in managing IEPs and the importance of having dedicated AP EIS at each school. Reflecting on his past experiences managing IEPs, he expresses pride in the district's accomplishments. Mr. Scott answered questions from the members.

VI. Roll call/establish quorum.

Norma Gonzalez, Secretary, called the roll and established quorum with 23 members and 1 alternate, for a total of 24 members present at 11:01 a.m.

VII. Approval of the minutes: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Ingrid Levy, President, asked the members to make a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2025. Ms. Carolyn Pakes made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2025, meeting with any additions, deletions, and/or corrections, and Ms. Rachel Milman seconded the motion. 20 members voted in favor, 0 members voted against, and 0 abstained. The motion was approved.

VIII. Division of Special Education (DSE) update.

Mrs. Lilia Moran, Compliance Coordinator, Division of Special Education provided:

Summary of the 2025 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Elections:

In-person elections for the "Parent of a Student with Exceptional Needs" category have already been held in most regions (East, West, South, and VAEOS), with two primary representatives and one alternate elected per region. Elections for the North Region will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Sepulveda Middle School. Elections for the "Student with Disabilities" and "Special Education Teacher" categories were conducted on April 22, 2025. Upcoming elections will proceed according to the established schedule. For more information and updates, visit <https://bit.ly/DSE-CAC-Elections>.

Review of the CAC Local Plan:

In accordance with Section 56207(b)(7) of the California Education Code, the CAC must review Section B of the Local Plan (Governance and Administration: Annual Service Plan) at least 30 days before its submission to the CDE. The review period will run from April 23 to May 23, 2025. CAC members can submit comments or suggestions via email to dse.families@lausd.net or through the feedback link.

Extended School Year (ESY):

The District will offer Extended School Year (ESY) programs at 176 comprehensive Summer Learning schools, in addition to 11 Special Education Centers and 16 independent sites. This initiative promotes inclusive education, allowing students with disabilities to learn and interact with their non-disabled peers, replicating the regular school year environment.

Daily Schedule:

- Elementary and middle school students: 8:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
- High school students and students at special education centers: 8:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Additional Information:

- ESY preschool programs will also be offered.
- Programs will support students in both the standard curriculum and the modified standard curriculum, along with specialized programs such as Visual Impairment and Deafness/Hearing Loss.
- Related services (such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc.) will be provided to students who have those services included in their IEP for ESY.
- Transportation will be provided according to the student's IEP.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served daily.

DATA AND METRICS

- IEP team meetings: From July 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, LAUSD has successfully conducted 81,318 IEP team meetings. This number excludes IEP team meetings completed at independent charter schools.
- Enrollment: As of March 31, 2025, 77,067 students with disabilities were enrolled in District schools.

Very Special Arts Festival (VSAF) Family Day:

On May 3, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the Division of Special Education (DSE) and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will have information booths during the VSAF Family Day and the LAUSD Arts Festival. Information about CAC membership and work, as well as updated DSE guides, will be offered. Families are invited to participate in both events, which will take place at nearby locations.

VSAF Family Day Gran Park Music Center 135 N Grand Ave Los Angeles, CA 90012	LAUSD Arts Festival Gloria Molina Center 200 N Grand Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Summer Learning Webinar:

The Division of Special Education, together with the Office of Student, Family, and Community Engagement, will offer a webinar through the Family Academy to inform families about summer opportunities for their children. The workshop will include details about dates, program options, enrollment, meals, transportation, and special education services. The 90-minute sessions will be held on Monday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m.

New DSE Website:

The Division of Special Education has launched its new website: <https://sped.lausd.org>, which will serve as the main source of information. The parent section includes useful resources such as workshop recordings, fact sheets, support for English learners with disabilities, dispute resolution options, and more. Families are encouraged to visit regularly to stay updated.

Division of Special Education School and Family Support Services: 213-241-6701 | <https://sped.lausd.org>

LAUSD General Hotline: 213-431-4300 | <https://www.lausd.org/>

LAUSD Mental Health Hotline: 213-241-3840 | <https://www.lausd.org/Page/12120>

Technology Access: 213-443-1300 | <https://its.lausd.org/>

Parent Portal: 213-481-3350 | <https://parentportalapp.lausd.net/parentaccess>

Individualized Student Learning Tutoring: 213-241-5200 | <https://tutoring.lausd.org/>

IX. Presentation: Summary of the Presentation: Local Plan Feedback Process Lilia Moran, Compliance Coordinator, Division of Special Education

Presentation Summary each month, the Division of Special Education (DSE) records training videos for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which are then posted on the DSE website. CAC members have access to these videos before the meeting and can submit any questions they may have. Today's meeting will include a summary of the pre-recorded video, as this is the training model chosen by the CAC. To watch the full recording, visit the DSE website at <https://sped.lausd.org/parents>.

Local SELPA Plan and the CAC:

The goal is to help CAC members and the LAUSD school community better understand the Local SELPA Plan, its annual review, and the CAC's key role in its development. Additionally, committee members are encouraged to actively participate through feedback, attending meetings, and ongoing follow-up to ensure the plan meets the needs of students with disabilities.

What is the Local SELPA Plan?

The Local SELPA Plan is the District's guide for providing services and supports to students with special needs. It details how their needs will be met in areas such as special education, available resources, and training for teaching staff.

How Does the CAC Support the Review of the Local Plan?

The CAC reviews the Local Plan and provides recommendations to ensure it addresses the community's needs. It also represents and amplifies the voices of families, especially those from diverse backgrounds and with varied needs.

Local Plan Advisory Committee (LPAC)

The LAUSD SELPA establishes a Local Plan Advisory Committee (LPAC) to collaborate in the development of the Local Plan. Coordination is managed by the SELPA Director or their designee. The committee includes representatives from the CAC, its chairperson, teachers, school staff, and district personnel appointed by the Special Education Chief. All sections of the plan are reviewed using the official CDE template.

CAC Composition

- Students and adults with disabilities
- Regular and special education teachers, as well as other school staff
- Representatives from other public and private agencies
- Individuals interested in the needs of persons with exceptional needs

How can parents join the CAC?

- "Parents/Guardians of Students with Exceptional Needs" are elected by their peers (other parents/guardians of students with exceptional needs).
- During the 2024/2025 school year, elections will be held in person across all District regions, including Virtual Academy Schools and Educational Options, to elect members in this category.
- The DSE website contains information about the elections. Please visit: <https://sped.lausd.org/cacelections>

2024-2027 Local Plan Advisory Committee (LPAC)

https://media.edlio.net/47280ab3/2837a9eb/1d8f7131/f8f23ae0a11243ddac992e87e769b500?_=2024-2027%20Area%20Del%20Plan%20Local%20Para%20La%20Educacion%20Especial_SPAN_011525.pdf

Ways to Provide Comments/Suggestions During the 30-Day Review Period

Submit comments using the feedback link: <https://bit.ly/LAUSD-LP-CAC-Feedback>

Email the Division of Special Education at dse.families@lausd.net

Call Lilia Moran at 213-241-8095

Ms. Lilia Moran answered members' questions.

Ms. Lilia reports that, as part of the agenda, the draft Local Plan notification and presentation is included. Although there is no formal presentation, she wants to announce that the draft has already been mailed out. She explains that

the document is shorter, about 42 pages, since it only includes Sections A, D, and E, along with some attachments. Section D is extensive, which explains the reduction in content compared to the full plan.

Contact Us: Division of Special Education Website: <https://lausd.org/sped>

School and Family Support Services: Phone: 213-241-6701 Email: spedsfss@lausd.net

IX. Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittee meeting was on April 4, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

African American Students with an IEP

A summary of the April 4 meeting was presented, including a presentation from the DSE department.

Training and Education/IEP

Representatives from the IDR office gave a presentation on alternative dispute resolution.

Parent Ambassadors

The Parent Ambassadors subcommittee will be present at the LA Arts Festival and will have a CAC committee table.

X. Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement

Diane Panossian, Director, Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement, stated that she wants to inform you about the following resources and updates:

As we approach the final weeks of the school year, we want to express our gratitude for the time and effort you continue to dedicate to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). On behalf of our office colleagues, we have done our best to ensure that the learning we provide is comprehensive and aligned with your role as members of the English Learner Advisory Committee at your schools.

You can continue accessing our monthly meeting recordings. These recordings are available on our NEW web platform: <https://www.families.lausd.org> or <https://www.lausd.org/CAC>

As you explore summer options, we want to remind you of the importance of summer school. A 2020 study by Brown University highlights that, on average, students lose significant progress in math and reading during the summer. In fact, half of the students tracked in the study lost some of the learning gained during the school year. We encourage you to consider enrolling in summer school. Visit <https://www.lausd.org/summeroflearning> for more information.

Highlights from SFACE and the District

Equity Courses: The Family Academy, in collaboration with the Division of Adult and Career Education, offers cohort-based courses called Equity Course Pathways. This program includes seven classes where families learn in a culturally relevant environment, define what family engagement means, and develop an action plan to stay involved in their children's education. Participants can choose from four pathways: multilingual learners, African American students, young children, and students with exceptional needs. Sign up for the interest list at:

LAUSDAdultEd.org/HelpYourChild

Family Academy: Provides content on rights, health, housing, and education. Available at: lausd.org/familyacademy, along with downloadable PDF catalogs and schedules for in-person workshops and central district webinars.

Regional Teams: Also offer in-person workshops to complement the webinars. Check dates and locations at: lausd.org/familyacademy

Parent Portal: A tool to track student progress. Over 87% of families are already connected. For assistance, call 213-443-1300.

School Volunteer Program: Over 37,000 volunteers participated this year in district schools. Learn more at: lausd.org/volunteer

Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement

lausd.org/SFACE

(213) 481-3350

XI. New Business for possible action for future meetings:

Kristie Lacy, Vice Chairperson shared updates with the members regarding topics of interest, and we will schedule a meeting to discuss upcoming changes, the electoral process, and any relevant information.

If anyone wishes to add another item to the agenda, please contact us.

XII. Announcements Nancy Hernandez, Public Relation

Our next subcommittee meeting will take place on May 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Additionally, don't forget that the CAC meeting will be on May 21, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was officially adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Norma E. Gonzalez, CAC Secretary, LAUSD