



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

8005 Morro Road  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
Phone: (805) 782-7304 / FAX: (805) 466-1473

## **SELPA Guide**

### **Individual Service Plan for Eligible Students with Disabilities who are Parentally Placed in Private Schools**

IDEA 2004 requires that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) identify and serve students with disabilities who are placed by their parents in private schools. LEAs are responsible for services to students who attend school within their attendance area.

In San Luis Obispo (SLO) County the SELPA and the individual LEAs take part in ongoing Child Find activities. SELPA activities include advertising Child Find responsibilities in the media, meeting and consultation with private school providers and parents of students with disabilities who have been parentally placed in private schools, and surveying private school providers concerning students that may need screening and/or services. Each LEA in the SELPA also conducts its own Child Find activities.

In the SLO SELPA, students identified through the above process or other LEA generated Child Find activities are then, with parent permission, assessed by their district of residence and offered an IEP for services in an LEA program. Students who qualify for special education services and whose parents refuse such services or withdraw their child from public school and enroll them in a private school are eligible for an Individual Service Plan (ISP).

If a student fits the criteria for an ISP the LEA in which the private school is located writes that plan. It is important to note that IDEA 2004 makes it clear that a student with disabilities who is parentally placed in a private school does not have an individual right to receive special education services equal to those of a student enrolled in the LEA, nor do they have due process rights. The California Department of Education has established that the amount of service provided to eligible students within a SELPA is based on the proportional share of federal funds the LEAs would receive if those students were enrolled in public programs.

In the SLO SELPA, the Special Education Operations Committee (SEOC) determines the type of service provided to students with disabilities who are placed in private schools yearly. This decision takes into account input from the private school providers and parents of students with disabilities who are

parentally placed in private schools. For 2006, SEOC has determined that the service provided to private schools would be consultation to private school and eligibility of private school staff to attend regional training provided by the SELPA. Individual LEAs are allowed to private-direct services, however this is not common practice.

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Approved by SEOC on August 24, 2006