



# SELPA Governance Council Meeting

**San Luis Obispo  
County SELPA**  
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**Dr. Amber Gallagher**  
Executive Director,  
SELPA

**Dr. Jim Brescia**  
Chair, San Luis Obispo  
County  
Superintendent of  
Schools

**Proudly Serving**  
Almond Acres Charter  
Academy  
Atascadero USD  
Bellevue-Santa Fe  
Charter  
Cayucos ESD  
Coast USD  
Lucia Mar USD  
Paso Robles JUSD  
Pleasant Valley JUESD  
San Luis Coastal USD  
SLO County Office of  
Education  
San Miguel JUSD  
Shandon JUSD  
Templeton USD

**INCLUDE-INSPIRE- ENGAGE**

## AGENDA

March 13, 2026  
8:00 am - 9:00 am

San Luis Obispo County Office of Education  
3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary School  
2025 Ranchita Canyon Road, San Miguel, CA 93451

Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School  
1401 San Luis Bay Dr., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Shandon Joint Unified School District  
101 South First Street, Shandon, CA 93461

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://slocoe-org.zoom.us/j/96245556202?pwd=GdJxax0beuXh1tllF9YjlnUxWEnvU.1>

Meeting ID: 962 4555 6202  
Passcode: 535036

Phone Number to Join Zoom Meeting:  
Dial: 1 (669) 900-9128

If you would like to make a public comment, you may present a public comment in-person or via email. If presenting a comment via email, please email [info@sloselpa.org](mailto:info@sloselpa.org) with the subject and comment 24-hours prior to the SELPA Governance meeting. Comments should be no longer than 450 words (equivalent to 3 speaking minutes). Comments will be read in the order received during the public comment period applicable. This meeting will be recorded.

[Click here to submit Comment Prior to Meeting](#)

### 1.0 Call Public Session to Order

Dr. Jim Brescia, Superintendent, San Luis Obispo County Office of Education

#### SELPA Governing Council Members:

Dr. Joe Ledoux, Executive Director, Almond Acres Charter

Dr. Tom Bennett, Superintendent, Atascadero USD

Ms. Julie Turk, Director, Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter

Ms. Jennifer Gaviola, Superintendent, Cayucos ESD

Ms. Jill Southern, Superintendent, Coast USD

Dr. Paul Fawcett, Superintendent, Lucia Mar USD

Ms. Jennifer Loftus, Superintendent, Paso Robles JUSD

Ms. Wendy Nielsen, Superintendent, Pleasant Valley JUESD

Dr. Eric Prater, Superintendent, San Luis Coastal USD

Ms. Karen Grandoli, Superintendent, San Miguel JUSD

Dr. Kristina Benson, Superintendent, Shandon JUSD

Dr. Jim Brescia, San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Edd Bond, Superintendent, Templeton USD

#### San Luis Obispo SELPA Staff:

Dr. Amber Gallagher, Executive Director



## 2.0 Establishment of Quorum

## 3.0 Consent Agenda *(Members may remove items from Consent Agenda)*

### 3.1 Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2026

### 3.2 Approval of Agenda for March 13, 2026

## 4.0 Public Comment

*Government Code 54954.3 provides that, before or during the Governing Council's consideration of an item, the public may address the Governing Council directly on any item of interest that is within the Governing Council's purview, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless otherwise authorized by Government Code 54954.2(b).*

## 5.0 Action Items

### 5.1 We Can Work Contract Renewal

SLO SELPA has been granted a contract for fiscal years 26/27, 27/28, and 28/29 to support student with disabilities access vocational training and job placement. The contract is presented for approval.

### 5.2 Atascadero State Hospital Contract Renewal with SELPA

The current three year contract is up for renewal. ASH is seeking a 5 year contract from 2026-2031. The SELPA assists in ensuring that individuals with exceptional needs, who are of mandated school age and reside at ASH, are afforded access to special education components in accordance with all applicable federal, state, county, district laws, ordinances, regulations and rules.

### 5.3 Independent Education Evaluation (IEE) Guide -Revisions

The SLO SELPA, in consultation with legal counsel and SEOC, proposed revisions to the IEE Guide. Revisions provide clarity to process in compliance with education code and case law. This item is returning after being tabled in January 2026.

## 6.0 Information Items

### 6.1 Special Education Legislative, Funding, and Compliance Update

The SELPA Executive Director will review current legislation, funding, and compliance as it pertains to special education.

### 6.2 Annual Performance Reports via the Annual Determination Letters

The SELPA Executive Director will review the recently received ADLs and discuss the next steps for monitoring based on results.

### 6.3 Special Education Continuum of Services

The SELPA Executive Director will provide an update on the work of SEOC to examine the needs of students with disabilities within special education and explore sustainable programmatic options countywide.



## SELPA Governance Council Meeting

### **7.0 SELPA Executive Director's Report**

Information, communication, and reports will be presented by the SELPA Executive Director.

### **8.0 Board Member Comments**

Each member of the Governing Council may report about various matters related to the SELPA. There will be no Board discussion except to ask questions and no action shall be taken unless listed on a subsequent agenda.

### **9.0 Future Planning**

**9.1 Next Meeting Date: April 17, 2026**

### **10.0 Adjournment**

The San Luis Obispo County SELPA is committed to making its Board meetings accessible to all persons. By request, alternative agenda document formats are available to individuals with special needs. To arrange an alternative agenda document format or to arrange aid or services to modify or accommodate an individual with special needs to permit participation in a public meeting, please contact the San Luis Obispo SELPA office via phone at (805) 782-7301 or submit electronic mail to [sscott@sloselpa.org](mailto:sscott@sloselpa.org).



# SELPA Governance Council Meeting

## Annotation – Agenda Items 3.1 & 3.2 Governing Council March 13, 2026

### Agenda Item

- 3.1 Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2026
- 3.2 Approval of Agenda for March 13, 2026

### Item Type

Consent Agenda

### Summary of Key Issues

The minutes from the January 16, 2026 Governing Council and the agenda for the March 13, 2026 Governing Council are presented for adoption.

### Summary of Previous Action

None.

### Recommendation

The SELPA Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2026 and the meeting agenda for March 13, 2026.

### Links to this Agenda Item

Approval of Minutes from [January 16, 2026](#)  
Approval of Agenda for March 13, 2026



# SELPA Governance Council Meeting

## Annotation – Agenda Items 5.1 Governing Council March 13, 2026

### Agenda Item

#### 5.1 We Can Work Contract Renewal

### Item Type

Action

### Summary of Key Issues

The SELPA was awarded an additional 3 year (26/27, 27/28, and 28/29) contract with We Can Work (WCW). WCW contracts are funded by the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to provide DOR Student Services work based learning experience for students with disabilities, ages 16-21, who are in high school/adult programs and are potentially eligible for or recipients of DOR services.

DOR Student Services work experience consists of short-term placements either on or off campus. They include paid/unpaid experiences, work exploration, and job shadowing. They may also result in the development of any of the following: vocational direction, appropriate work attitudes, ethics, interpersonal skills, speed, and accuracy as well as some limited occupational skills.

The SLO SELPA was awarded the following federal funds to support the implementation of WCW contingent on local and state contract approval:

- 26/27 \$120,797
- 27/28 \$123,426
- 28/29 \$126,121

The grant amount supports a SELPA employed 0.625 FTE Job Developer and a minimum of 30 student placements of up to 120 work hours.

### Summary of Previous Action

The SELPA Governance Council previously approved a 3 year contract with We Can Work on October 20, 2023. That contract was in place for 23/24, 24/25, and 25/26.

### Recommendation

The SELPA Executive Director recommends approval of the We Can Work contract to be implemented for 26/27, 27/28, and 28/29 upon final state approval.

### Links to this Agenda Item

[We Can Work Contract](#), 26-29 Draft



# SELPA Governance Council Meeting

## Annotation – Agenda Items 5.2 Governing Council March 13, 2026

### Agenda Item

#### 5.2 Atascadero State Hospital Contract Renewal with SELPA

### Item Type

Action

### Summary of Key Issues

The current three year contract is up for renewal between the SELPA and the Atascadero State Hospital (ASH). ASH is seeking a 5 year contract renewal from 2026-2031.

The SELPA assists in ensuring that individuals with exceptional needs, who are of mandated school age and reside at ASH, are afforded access to special education components in accordance with all applicable federal, state, county, district laws, ordinances, regulations and rules.

- Consultation with the Educational Administrator and Educational Specialist
  - Student enrollment history
  - Educational records review
  - Communication with other SELPA/LEA providers regarding student
  - IEP development and review
  - Progress monitoring of IEP
  - Problem-solving around compliance and monitoring
- IEP Participation
  - LEA Admin Designee at all IEPs
- Professional Development and Resource Sharing
  - Educational Specialist is on our SELPA listserv and invited to SELPA hosted PD

### Summary of Previous Action

N/A.

### Recommendation

The SELPA Executive Director recommends approval of the 5 year contract between the SELPA and the Atascadero State Hospital, from 2026-2031.

### Links to this Agenda Item

[SELPA/ASH Contract Renewal](#)

(inclusive of Standard Agreement, Scope of Work, Budget Detail and Payment Provisions)



# SELPA Governance Council Meeting

## Annotation – Agenda Items 5.3 Governing Council March 13, 2026

### Agenda Item

#### 5.3 Independent Education Evaluation (IEE) Guide - Revisions

### Item Type

Action

### Summary of Key Issues

The SLO SELPA, in consultation with legal counsel and SEOC, has proposed revisions to the IEE Guide. Revisions provide clarity to the process in compliance with education code.

Subsequent to the January 16, 2026 SELPA Governance Council meeting, additional legal consultation was sought. No changes to the original revision proposals have been made.

### Summary of Previous Action

The SELPA IEE Policy was last approved by the SELPA Governance Council on January 19, 2024 with the Cost Limitations being revised and approved on June 13, 2025.

This item was presented to SELPA Governance Council on January 16, 2026 for approved. Based on input and the request for clarification, the item was tabled until the next meeting.

### Recommendation

The SELPA Executive Director recommends approval of the revisions as presented to the Independent Education Evaluation Policy.

### Links to this Agenda Item

[Draft IEE Policy/Parent Packet w/revisions](#)



# SELPA Governance Council Meeting

**Annotation – Agenda Items 6.1  
Governing Council  
March 13, 2026**

**Information Item**

**6.1 Special Education Legislative, Funding, and Compliance Update**

**Item Type**

Information

**Summary of Key Issues**

The SELPA Executive Director will review current legislation, funding, and compliance as it pertains to special education.

**Summary of Previous Action**

None.

**Recommendation**

Not applicable.

**Links to this Agenda Item**

None.



# SELPA Governance Council Meeting

## Annotation – Agenda Items 6.2 Governing Council March 13, 2026

### Information Item

#### 6.2 Annual Performance Reports via the Annual Determination Letters

### Item Type

Information

### Summary of Key Issues

The SELPA Executive Director will review the Annual Performance Reports as part of the Annual Determination Letters received by each LEA from the California Department of Education.

A review of trends and next steps will be shared.

### Summary of Previous Action

None.

### Recommendation

Not applicable.

### Links to this Agenda Item

None.



# SELPA Governance Council Meeting

## Annotation – Agenda Items 6.3 Governing Council March 13, 2026

### Information Item

#### 6.3 Special Education Continuum of Services

### Item Type

Information

### Summary of Key Issues

The SELPA Executive Director will provide an update on the work of SEOC to examine the needs of students with disabilities within special education and explore sustainable programmatic options countywide.

SEOC continues to address student and programmatic needs countywide through proactive and reactive solutions.

- SEOC Program Advisory Committee was established in 2024-2025 to make regional referrals more calibrated with collective ownership of programmatic success.
- Spectrum Central Coast- a local non-public school opened in August 2025 to meet a longstanding need for secondary students who required more individualized education to address social/emotional and behavioral needs.
- K-3 supports surfaced as significant concerns during the 2025-2026 school year which has led to engagement around the need to expand the countywide special education continuum.

### Summary of Previous Action

None.

### Recommendation

Not applicable.

### Links to this Agenda Item

None.