

November 2024

UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- **Alternate Curriculum Assessment Exemption:** The LAUSD Board approved extending the Diploma with the alternate assessment exemption to all students who meet eligibility requirements, expanding beyond the original implementation that limited the opportunity to those who entered 9th grade in 2022–2023 or later. Families of students with disabilities are encouraged to join the Diploma Information Session in the Spring by registering at <https://bit.ly/altpathway-parentworkshop>.
- **Professional Development:** The Division of Special Education Instruction – Alternate Curriculum team hosted an “Assessment Tools” training for 105 participants. The professional development was designed for alternate curriculum program teachers, administrators, and region staff. The team continues to offer the Unique Learning System 2.0 (advanced ULS skills) training for alternate curriculum program teachers. Twenty-seven (27) teachers were in attendance during the month of October. Eighteen (18) participants attended the “Including Students with Extensive Support Needs in General Education” professional development. This training is designed for special education teachers, general education teachers, administrators, and region staff.
- **Winter Academy:** The LAUSD is offering a three-day winter academy session for UTK – 12th grade students starting on December 16 – December 18, 2024. All students who normally receive transportation as part of their special education services will also receive transportation for the Winter Academy. The Winter Academy is modeled after a regular school day, with similar start and dismissal times. You may register your student at <https://www.lausd.org/winteracademy> or visit your child’s school of regular attendance for more information. Enrollment on the LAUSD [enrollment portal](#) ends on November 29, 2024. Students will receive their confirmation letters during the week of December 9, 2024. Start and dismissal times will be communicated to families prior to December 16, 2024.

November 2024

DATA & METRIC

- **IEP Completion Data:** From July 1, 2024, through October 29, 2024, LAUSD has successfully conducted 26,014 IEP team meetings. This value excludes the number of IEP team meetings completed at independent charter schools.
- **Students with Disabilities Current Enrollment:** As of October 29, 2024, the current LAUSD enrollment of students with disabilities is 73, 410.

PARENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- **Listening Campaign:** The Division of Special Education has shared the [Listening Campaign flyer](#) with families to create opportunities for open dialogue with our school communities, families, and staff. As announced in the CAC September and October meetings, feedback collected throughout the Listen and Learn sessions and the collection of data throughout the Listening Campaign will help shape the future direction of the LAUSD Division of Special Education. We encourage families to participate by completing the survey linked in the flyer; their insights are essential to developing actionable strategies and sustainable plans for the long-term success of our students with disabilities. Click [here](#) to access the survey.
- **Parent Workshops:** On December 8th and 10th, the Division of Special Education, in collaboration with Special Education Mental Health Counselors, will lead a virtual parent workshop titled "Parents as Partners." Families will learn ways to effectively communicate with their child's educational team, teachers, counselors, administrators, and other support staff. Click on the [workshop catalog](#) to access login information.
- The Office of Instruction will lead the next Special Education Parent Ambassador workshop, titled Rightful Presence: Fostering a Sense of Belonging in School, during January. Families will learn about the least restrictive environment for students with disabilities and the benefits of time with peers in general education, which can build

November 2024

student achievement and independence. For more information, access the flyer [here](#).

- **Local Plan Informational Session: December 11, 2024 (10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**
This session will be facilitated by the Division of Special Education and will provide an overview of the feedback received from the 2024 Local Plan Advisory Committee (LPAC) regarding the development of the LAUSD SELPA Local Plan. DSE will describe how it collects input from parents, teachers, and other stakeholder groups to inform and refine the Local Plan. Additionally, DSE will review how parental feedback shapes special education initiatives, and encourages ongoing participation, regardless of whether specific comments are directly incorporated into the plan.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

- **Positive Behavior Support Symposium:** The Division of Special Education is pleased to announce the second year of its Positive Behavior Support Symposiums, tailored specifically for paraeducators. These events will be held across the District on eight Saturdays, with each participant able to attend one or two days of their choosing. The symposiums will cover crucial topics, including:
 - Preventing and Responding to Behaviors
 - Social Emotional Learning
 - Applied Behavior AnalysisThe focus will be on effective prevention and intervention strategies, equipping paraeducators with the skills needed to support positive student behaviors.
- **DSE Paraprofessional Live Webinar Training Series on Behavioral/Instructional Support:** This 6-session live webinar series, developed by the Division of Special Education Core Instruction Team and Behavior Support Department, provides paraprofessionals with tools to foster positive learning environments. Regional sessions will run from October 2024 to April 2025, promoting local collaboration.



November 2024

- **Professional Development for Staff:** The Division of Special Education Office of Instruction offers ongoing training on the 95 Percent Phonics Lesson Library (PLL), teaching strategies to support struggling readers through explicit, systematic phonics instruction. Staff also participate in the 95 Percent Literacy Intervention System (LIS) Training, exploring resources on the One95 Platform to enhance their use of the PLL. Additionally, training for new special education teachers focuses on creating meaningful accommodations for students with IEPs, monitoring progress, and planning targeted small-group activities to meet diverse learning needs using the i-Ready platform.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Phone Number	Website
Division of Special Education School & Family Support Services	213-241-6071	https://www.lausd.org/sped
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://www.lausd.org/its
Parent Portal	213-481-3350	https://parentportalapp.lausd.net/parentaccess
Tutoring for Individualized Student Learning	213-241-5200	https://www.lausd.org/tutoring