

SEPTEMBER 2025**UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Alternate Curriculum Professional Development:** The Division of Special Education provided a two-day training for new alternate curriculum and Career Training Center (CTC) teachers. Additionally, over 1,300 general education teachers attended the 2024 Summer Professional Development (PD) that focused on supporting students with extensive support needs in the general education setting. The division will continue to provide additional professional developments on topics varying from, Foundations of Alternate Curriculum Instructional Training, Unique Learning System, Assessment Tools, Making Content Accessible, Community Based Instructions, and Diploma Informational Session throughout the year
- **Engaging Parents as Partners:** As part of our ongoing efforts to help special education teachers enhance their practices about engaging parents as partners, this professional development session gave new teachers the opportunity to evaluate their knowledge and understanding of family engagement. Teachers participated in discussions and activities focused on the significance of building strong relationships with families, along with practical strategies and tips for effective communication with parents.

DATA & METRICS

- **IEP Completion Data**
From July 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024, LAUSD has successfully conducted 4,134 team meetings. This value excludes the number of IEP team meetings completed at independent charter schools.
- **Open Data Dashboard** – The District created a dashboard accessible to LAUSD families and individuals concerned with learning more about the District's enrollment, budget and other metrics. The Open Data Dashboard offers users the ability to explore data and location of schools across the 710 square miles covered in our LAUSD Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Parents will be able to search for schools within a Board District or Community of Schools such as Special Education Centers and Option Schools. Parents will access view to school contact

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information, enrollment, attendance, budget, college readiness and other indicators of interest. For more information click the Open Data Dashboard webpage at https://my.lausd.net/opendata/landing_page

PARENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- **Listen and Learn Sessions:** During the 2024 fall semester, the Division of Special Education is embarking on a Listen and Learn Campaign to engage stakeholders and to receive their input. Dr. Soto will be meeting with stakeholders across the district and will be soliciting feedback via a qualitative survey and by hosting focus groups in each region. Focus groups will include parents, teachers, principals, assistant principals, and regional administrators. Dr. Soto would like to host a focus group with our CAC partners to listen and gather their feedback around special education. The goal of the listening campaign is to capture our stakeholder's voices, identify emergent themes, and act on recommendations that improve the support and services of our students with disabilities.
- **Division of Special Education (DSE) Virtual Parent Workshops:** For the 2024-2025 school year, the Division of Special Education staff will be leading and conducting four parent workshops. The workshops will take place in October, December, February, and April. The topics are: Preparing for the IEP Team Meeting, Parent as Partners, Supporting Students with Extensive Support Needs and Education in the Least Restrictive Environment, accordingly. Click [here](#) to access the DSE Virtual Parent Workshop Catalog for more information.
- **Special Education Region Ambassador Hybrid Parent Workshops:** A series of hybrid parent workshops will take place in every region during the 2024/2025 school year. They will begin in October and will end in April. Topics include strategies to support positive behavior in the home setting, fostering a sense of belonging in school, to exploring IEP resolution options for student success. The workshops are designed specifically for families of students with disabilities, and all are welcome

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to attend either in-person or via Zoom. All are welcome to attend! Visit our webpage to access times, dates, and meeting locations at <https://www.lausd.org/sped>.

- **TK-12 Instruction led Parent Workshops:** The office of Special Education TK-12 Instruction will continue to conduct virtual parent workshops. Two of the topics for this year include Dyslexia and Inclusive Practices. Parents will learn about the characteristics of Dyslexia and the benefits of increasing inclusive practices in schools. They will take place in October and November of 2024. For more information, access the flyer information [here](#).
- **Division of Special Education Parent Newsletter:** We are pleased to share the Division of Special Education is transitioning to a new platform to deliver the parent newsletter. The new platform optimizes the way families will receive information. Families will be able to access the newsletter content using various devices. The parent newsletter will continue to be accessible via text, email, and social media platforms.
- **Fall of 2024 – Diploma Informational Sessions for Families:** Families are invited to attend an informational session on how students with extensive support needs can qualify to earn a high school diploma. During this session, families will learn about the requirements for earning a diploma that enables students to continue their education, seek employment, and actively engage in their community, all while remaining eligible for special education services through age 22.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

- **New Special Education Teacher Training:** The Division of Special Education in collaboration with the Teacher Growth & Induction Program provided professional development training to new special education teachers on establishing meaningful accommodations and modifications in the classroom, the reclassification process for English Learners with disabilities, navigating District



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resources and establishing positive connections with families.

- **Upcoming Professional Development Training:** Upcoming professional development training sessions for certificated and classified staff include the following topics:
 - Oral Interpreting Training at IEP Team Meetings
 - 95 Percent Phonics Lesson Library (PLL) Training
 - 95 Percent Literacy Intervention System (LIS) Training
 - i-Ready Paraprofessional Learning Opportunity

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