

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REVIEW

Purpose: The Stanislaus County Office of Education offers two perspectives from which a school or district can assess its Special Education programs. The first perspective is provided through the tool, the Educational Benefit Review. This intensive review analyzes a matrix sample of 10 IEP's per school to ascertain if IEP's are written for the educational benefit of students. This Review focuses on the history of a student in special education, as told through the IEP folder, to determine if assessment, standards-based goals, and service are aligned and have served to increase student achievement. The second perspective is provided by the LRE or Least Restrictive Environment, a self-assessment tool in both a school and district format. The opportunity for a school or district to rate itself against the tool's criteria provides information about how well the school or district supports its special education students, staff and programs.

Targeted Audience: Any district or school wishing to investigate its special education program.

Format: For the Educational Benefits Review, the Stanislaus County Office of Education provides a team of reviewers with experience and training in the Educational Benefit Review process and/or Special Education as a teacher, administrator, SELPA employee or parent. The school or district may place an employee of its own on the team to build capacity at the site or district for on-going analyses and to provide a locally-based educator for on-going discussion and explanation and some buy in for continued use of the results. The team provides the school or district with a list of the IEP's to be pulled. A date is established to conduct the Review, and the team arrives to analyze each IEP folder. The Team Leader writes a report that 1) analyzes the demographic data of the special education population, 2) aggregates the findings of the IEP folder analysis, 3) provides examples from the IEP folders to illuminate practice, and 4) provides recommendations. The Team Leader conducts a reporting out for the administrators and teachers and provides copies of the report for every participant.

For the Least Restrictive Environment, the Stanislaus County Office of Education provides a facilitator to work with either a school or district team to assess itself against the components of the tool. The facilitator provides a finished copy of the LRE findings.

Cost: \$2,000/school for the Educational Benefit; \$500/day per facilitator for the LRE

Additional Notes:

- The Stanislaus County Office of Education may schedule follow-up professional development for teachers and administrators based on trends and significant common need across schools and districts.

Contact Information: Susan Rich, 238-1331, Assistant Superintendent, ISS, srich@stancoe.org