



## **Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What is a SELPA?**

A SELPA is a Special Education Local Plan Area. In 1977, all school districts and county school offices were mandated to form consortiums in geographical regions of sufficient size and scope to provide for all special education service needs of children residing within the region boundaries. A region might be a group of many small districts or a large single district, but each region must be of sufficient size and scope to provide the full continuum of services for children and youth residing within the region boundaries.

- **What is the function of a SELPA?**

Each SELPA provides for the special education service needs of children residing within the region's boundaries. In addition, each SELPA must develop a local plan describing how it will provide special education services and is responsible for monitoring all required areas of compliance and for submitting budgets and data reports to the California Department of Education (CDE).

- **How is a single district SELPA different from a multi-district SELPA?**

A SELPA may be a group of smaller districts or a large district. In a multi-district SELPA, decisions about resources, policies, procedures and training provided must be agreed upon and shared by the members. When conflicting needs arise, the members must reach a compromise. In a single district SELPA, the district has direct control of the special education resources, policies, procedures and training provided to meet identified needs.

- **What is the Local Plan?**

The Local Plan for a SELPA outlines policies and procedures describing how it will provide special education services, monitor compliance and allocate resources to support students.

- **Why is Twin Rivers moving to become a single district SELPA?**

- Providing Twin Rivers with a direct voice at state meetings to advocate for our students' needs
- Keeping students and their families connected with their neighborhood and community
- Increasing the capacity to improve programs and services for students
- Maintaining oversight of the programs and services to ensure program quality
- Keeping and utilizing resources directly with Twin Rivers' students
- Delivering services and resources to students will be expedited and more efficient

- **Who has responsibility for oversight of a SELPA?**

The SELPA is required to monitor policies, procedures, resources, budgets and compliance with all federal and state requirements. The SELPA is required to submit reports, data, and budgets to the California Department of Education (CDE). All SELPAs are monitored by CDE.

- **What will change when Twin Rivers becomes a single district SELPA?**

- Twin Rivers will have direct control of the special education resources allocated to use with our students
- Twin Rivers will be able to improve existing and develop programs and services for new students
- The Twin Rivers Community Advisory Committee will have direct participation in developing policies and programs for our students
- Twin Rivers will submit special education budgets and data reports directly to the California Department of Education

- **What will not change when Twin Rivers becomes a single district SELPA?**

- IEP services and supports will not be changed
- IEP teams will still be making the decisions about student services and supports
- Students participating in programs outside the district will remain in the programs
- The district will continue to improve current programs and services; however there will be greater capacity to make improvements

- **What is the process for becoming a single district SELPA?**

- Twin Rivers is required to submit a letter of intent to the County Superintendent, the California Department of Education and all of the member of the current multi-district SELPA in which Twin Rivers is one of nine members. The letter of intent must be submitted at least a year and a day prior to the target date the district intends to become a single district SELPA.
- The district is required to develop a Local Plan. The plan is developed in collaboration with a special education Community Advisory Committee, key stakeholders and is posted for community feedback.
- The final draft of the Local Plan is approved by the Twin Rivers Board of Education
- The Local Plan is submitted to the County Superintendent for approval by October 1, 2018

- **What is the target date for Twin Rivers to become a single district SELPA?**

- The target date is July 1, 2019

- **Will teachers be involved in discussing how resources will be allocated?**

Becoming our own SELPA will give our teachers, professionals and community more influence in discussing how funds are allocated.

- **Will students who currently attend county office of education programs offered through our regional SELPA be returned to district schools?**

Students attending county office of education programs offered through our regional SELPA will continue in their current programs. In addition to students residing in districts who are currently members of the Sacramento County SELPA, the programs offered by the Sacramento County Office of Education are available and take students from all the area single district SELPAs.

- **How will greater access to resources influence the district's plan for professional development?**

The district will have greater flexibility to promptly align funds to our students and staff needs, eliminating the requirement to present our case to a multi-district SELPA, which may or may not agree with our requests. In terms of professional development, the district will be able to focus on topics identified as priorities by our teachers and staff and allow for opportunities for high priority session topics.

- **Will increased resources change class sizes and other aspects of working conditions and student learning environments?**

Class size and other aspects of working conditions are negotiated items and are discussed as a part of the negotiations process.