

NCCSE: BEYOND THE BASICS

CAC MEETING, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

SELPA – WHAT IS THIS??

- **Special Education Local Plan Areas**
 - **Created in 1977 in response to federal requirements to provide full continuum of special education services**
 - **Outlined in California Education Code**
 - **Defined in California Master Plan in 1980**



SELPA – WHAT IS THIS??

- Key Responsibilities
 - Child Find
 - Free Appropriate Public Education
 - Least Restrictive Environment
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution Support
 - Compliance and Performance Support
 - Federal and State Reporting
 - Technical Assistance
 - Allocation of State and Federal Funds

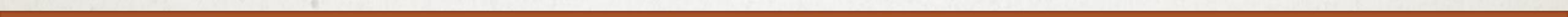


SELPA STRUCTURE IN CALIFORNIA

- SELPAs can be large unified school districts, a collection of smaller school districts, county offices, a collection of charter schools, or any combination of the above.
 - Over 130 SELPAs in California
 - 36 Single-District SELPAs
 - 4 Charter SELPAs
- Each SELPA has a unique structure, governance, staffing, and funding allocation plan.

SELPA LOCAL PLAN

- Each SELPA has a Local Plan.
- Local Plan is the controlling document that describes the SELPA's governance structure, regionalized supports, and funding distribution plan.
- Local Plan is only revised when significant changes in law or SELPA governance structure.



MULTI-DISTRICT SELPAS

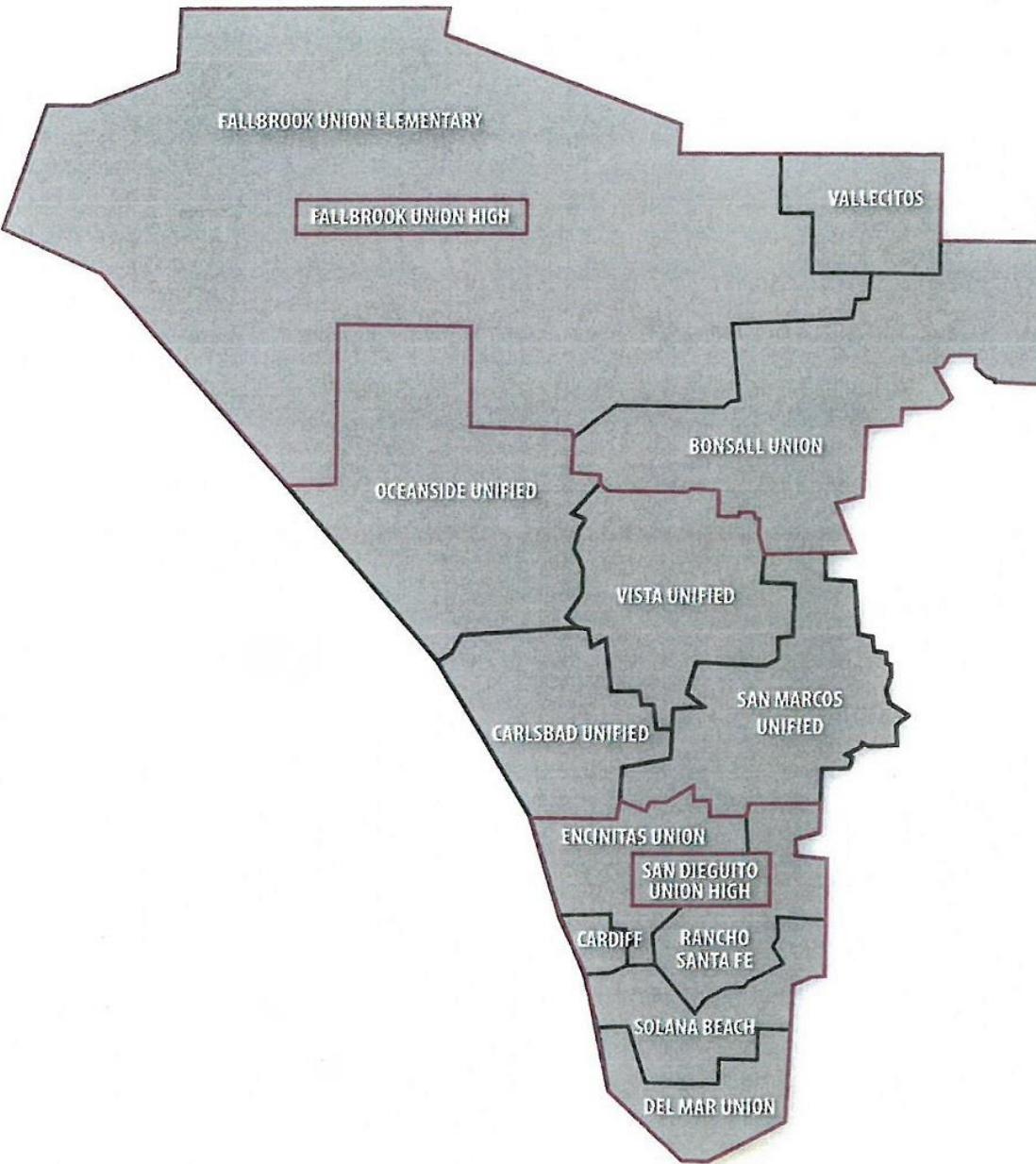
- Multi-District SELPAs range from 2 districts to over 40 districts.
- Each multi-district SELPA must designate an LEA or county office as the Administrative Unit (AU) to serve as the legal entity to receive funding

NORTH COASTAL CONSORTIUM FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION (NCCSE)

The NCCSE is a dynamic, regional, collaborative special education local planning area whose purpose is to support local school districts as they provide for the needs of students with special needs.

The NCCSE provides and supports districts with:

- Staff development and parent education
- Program Specialist Services
- Help when responding to needs of parents
- Unification of common needs
- Technical Assistance
- Awareness and dissemination of current best practices
- Creation of forums for problem solving



NCCSE FAST FACTS

- NCCSE has 14 member districts

Bonsall, Cardiff, Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Fallbrook Elementary, Fallbrook High, Oceanside, Rancho Santa Fe, San Dieguito, San Marcos, Solana Beach, Vista, Vallecitos

- NCCSE is one of six SELPAs in San Diego County.

North Inland, East County, South County, Poway Unified, and San Diego Unified

- NCCSE is the largest SELPA in San Diego County. NCCSE is 6th largest SELPA in California. (107,816 total enrollment; 14,947 students with disabilities)

- NCCSE is 4th largest multi-district SELPA in California.

- NCCSE is lowest funded SELPA in San Diego County.

- NCCSE is funded in bottom third of SELPAs in State.

NCCSE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- **Board of Governors:** Policy-making body composed of Superintendents of 14 Districts

Each District has equal vote!

- **Trustee Review Committee:** Reviews SELPA policies and may hear disputes of Board of Governors
- **Program Cabinet:** Special Education Directors make formal recommendations related to policies, procedures, budget, personnel and operations of the SELPA
- **Finance Committee:** District Finance representatives, 2 cabinet members, and SELPA finance officer advise NCCSE Director, Cabinet, and Board of Governors on fiscal policies, procedures, and allocation of funds

NCCSE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- **Program-Finance Work Group:** 7 Program Directors and 7 Finance representatives review current cost centers and make initial budget recommendations each year
- **Community Advisory Committee:** Parent and staff representatives from 14 districts who fulfill role established in Education Code and establish SELPA priorities
- **NCCSE Executive Director:** Employed by SDCOE and receives direction and is responsible to Board of Governors
- **Administrative Unit:** San Diego County Office of Education provides administrative support and receives and distributes funding

NCCSE SERVICES

- SELPA Office
 - *Staff*
 - ✓ Executive Director
 - ✓ 2 Coordinators
 - ✓ 1.4 Program Specialist
 - ✓ 1 Finance Specialist
 - ✓ 1 Parent Liaison (split between 2 people)
 - ✓ 4 Clerical Support Staff
 - *Services*
 - ✓ Recruitment, Hiring, Training, and Supervision of AT, DHH, VI, OT, SLPA services, RTC Case Management, and NPS Alternative Staff
 - ✓ Extensive training and professional development
 - ✓ Dedicated support and training for staff supporting moderate-severe needs
 - ✓ SELPA-wide participation in SEIS; dedicated support and training for CASEMIS responsibilities
 - ✓ SELPA-wide participation in Unique curriculum for students with moderate-severe needs; dedicated support and training
 - ✓ Management and oversight of all State SELPA requirements, including compliance, fiscal, CAC, ADR, legislative and legal implications, SELPA policies and procedures, coordination with agencies and schools, etc.

NCCSE SERVICES

- **Professional Development 2016-2017**
 - Over 100 trainings and workshops
 - Over 3,000 participants trained (2,211 NCCSE)
 - Over 40 districts/agencies outside of NCCSE paid for slots earning \$10,000 in revenue

NCCSE SERVICES

- CAC and Parent Training/Outreach
 - *Staff*
 - ✓ 1 Parent Liaison (40%/60% split position)
 - *Services*
 - ✓ *Community Advisory Committee and Executive Board*
 - ✓ *Parent Trainings and Resource Fairs*
 - ✓ *1:1 Support and Information*
 - ✓ *Alternative Dispute Resolution Process*
 - ✓ *Excellence in Special Education Awards Event*

NCCSE SERVICES

- **Assistive Technology**
 - ***Staff***
 - ✓ 3 Assistive Technology Program Specialists
 - ✓ 1 Speech-Language Pathology Assistant
 - ***Services***
 - ✓ Assessments
 - ✓ Observations
 - ✓ Equipment Trials and Maintenance Support
 - ✓ Training
 - ✓ Collaboration with Special Education and General Education Staff

NCCSE SERVICES

- Visually Impaired (VI) Program
 - *Staff*
 - ✓ 12 Teachers of the Visually Impaired (4 hold dual credentials to provide Orientation and Mobility services)
 - ✓ 1 Braille Transcriber
 - ✓ 3 VI Aides
 - *Services*
 - ✓ Assessments
 - ✓ Direct and Consultative Supports
 - ✓ Provision of Large Print and Other Adaptive Materials
 - ✓ Supports approximately 170 students across all 14 districts

NCCSE SERVICES

- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program**
 - ***Staff***
 - ✓ **11 Teachers**
 - ✓ **2 Audiologists**
 - ✓ **11 ASL Interpreters**
 - ✓ **1 Speech Pathologist**
 - ✓ **6 Instructional Assistants**
 - ***Services***
 - ✓ **Assessments**
 - ✓ **Direct and Consultative Services**
 - ✓ **1 Prek and 1 Elementary Auditory-Oral Program**
 - ✓ **1 High School Total Communication Class**
 - ✓ **InterSELPA Placements for students requiring instruction in Total Communication at elementary and middle school levels**
 - ✓ **We support over 350 students across all 14 districts**

NCCSE SERVICES

- **Small District Protection Pool**
 - **Claims allowed by small districts**
 - **Claims allowed for unexpected, high-cost placement needs**
 - **Claims considered by representatives from Finance and Program Cabinet**
 - **Claims approved by vote of Board of Governors**

NCCSE SERVICES

- **Small District Program Specialist Support**
 - Provides some limited support to
 - ✓ Vallecitos
 - ✓ Cardiff
 - ✓ Rancho Santa Fe
 - ✓ Fallbrook High
 - ✓ Bonsall (*Bonsall expected to surpass threshold in 2018-19*)
 - Activities
 - ✓ Complex cases, complaint investigation, compliance assistance, etc.
 - ✓ Training
 - ✓ Out-of-District placement support

NCCSE MOU SERVICES

- Occupational Therapists
- Speech-Language Pathology Assistants
- Sign Language Interpreters
- Program Specialists
- North County Academy Placements
- Case Management Steering Participation



ROLE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education
- Development of special education program and supports to meet needs of all students with exceptional needs
- Implementation of Special Education and Related Services
- Recruiting, Hiring, and Evaluation of its staff
- Compliance with all State and Federal laws
- Responding to any compliance or due process complaints

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Role established in California Education Code
- Comprised of parents and staff of member districts
- Majority of members are parents of children with special needs
- Selection overseen by District Administration and approved by Local Governing Boards
- Appointments are 2-year terms, which may be extended
- CAC serves in advisory role to the SELPA

ROLES OF CAC

- **Advise on development and review of Local Plan**
- **Recommend annual priorities**
- **Assist in parent education**
- **Encourage community involvement**
- **Support activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs**
- **Assist in parent awareness on the importance of regular school attendance**
- **Big-picture perspective: focus on the 14,500 students with exceptional needs**

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETINGS

- Each CAC meeting includes:
 - Special Education Topic
 - SELPA director update
 - Legislative update
 - Parent/staff networking
 - Leadership opportunities
 - Email distribution of special education resources and events

WAYS TO MAXIMIZE INVOLVEMENT IN CAC

- **Attend meetings and CAC presentations**
- **Attend Workshops and Resource Fairs**
- **Become familiar with Family Section of NCCSE Website**
- **Read publications**
- **Read newsletters and suggest article topics**
- **Volunteer your time to support the Excellence in Special Education Awards!**
- **Stay abreast of legislative topics related to education**

HOW CAN I SUPPORT OTHER PARENTS?

- Refrain from adding third-party perspectives
- Encourage participation in workshops/trainings
- Share resources
- Encourage communication with District staff and administration
- Encourage communication with NCCSE liaison
- Encourage Resolutions for School Success (RSS)
- Presume positive intentions

RESOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

- Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC) facilitates the process
- Susan Carlton-Bahm is facilitator (619) 594-7383
- Process is
 - Confidential
 - Results-oriented
 - Satisfying
 - Fast and efficient
 - Cost effective

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

- Some issues may require CAC input.
- Visit www.leginfo.ca.gov to search for your legislators' homepages under "Your Legislature."
- You can learn what committees your legislators are involved with.
- If you send a letter or communication, be aware of timelines.
- If you meet with a legislator or his/her staff member, share personal stories, ask for support or opposition of a position, and follow up with a letter

BURNING ISSUES/QUESTIONS?

THERE ARE NO BAD QUESTIONS!
