



# FRESNO COUNTY SELPA SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

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Trina Frazier, Assistant Superintendent

## Operations Committee Meeting February 19, 2026 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Minutes

*PLEASE NOTE: For public access instructions and opportunities for public comments, please contact [tfrazier@fcoe.org](mailto:tfrazier@fcoe.org) or (559) 265-3049 5:00 p.m. on February 18, 2026. Trina Frazier will respond with further instructions.*

**I. Call to Order** T. Frazier  
The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

**II. Introductions** T. Frazier  
Meeting was held online. Introductions were not conducted.

**III. \*Adoption of Agenda** T. Frazier  
Jeff Moore / Erin Pasillas

**IV. Community Input**  
*The public may address the Fresno County SELPA Policy Committee pursuant to established procedures and will have up to three minutes to do so. No action shall be taken (E.C. 35145.5). Members of the public who have a disability in need of a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the Operations Committee meeting may contact the Operations Committee coordinator 72 hours prior to the meeting with the request.*

**V. \*Minutes from January 20, 2026** T. Frazier  
Minutes were provided and motion was approved unanimously.

**VI. Standing Committee Reports** T. Frazier  
**A. Executive Committee**  
**B. SGC Committee**  
Tina Frazier, SELPA Administrator, reported that the items from both the Executive Committee and SGC Committee meetings would be discussed through informational reports followed.

**VII. Information and Reports** T. Frazier  
**A. Administrator's Report – Highlights of Current Information**  
1. **Fiscal Update**  
Trina reported the Governor's budget proposal included the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.41% remains in place and a proposed one-time funding of \$322 million and ongoing funding of \$239 million for home-to-school transportation. This would help offset increased costs in the upcoming First Student transportation contract. The proposal also included a base rate increase to \$999 per ADA. This would equalize base rates in California.

2. **Legislative Update**  
Trina stated, February 20<sup>th</sup> is the final day for bill introductions, and a full bill list will be presented at the next meeting. She notes that some bills related to special education may appear as placeholders or under titles that do not immediately indicate special education relevance.
3. **First Student Update**  
The new First Student contract begins July 1, 2026, with a 39% cost increase. The agreement includes a guaranteed six-hour minimum for drivers and installation of two cameras on buses. Liquidated damages language will remain unchanged. Fresno County Transportation scheduler, Salina Guzman, shared with Trina that operations are currently running smoothly and that First Student has standby drivers, which has reduced late routes.
4. **Substitute Teacher Regulation Update**  
The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) released draft regulations extending substitute teaching days. The proposal currently allows 60 days only for general education, excluding special education. SELPA leadership will continue advocacy efforts.
5. **Procedural Safeguards Update**  
Trina shared updates arising from a Soledad Unified case that prompted corrective actions. Some updates are included in the draft safeguards such as Family Empowerment Center contacts, information on assessment, consent, and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). There are still several required revisions that are missing. Districts should continue using the supplemental form from Monterey available in the SEIS document library until CDE finalizes all corrections.

## **B. FCSS Operated Program Updates**

C. Borges

1. **\*Class Loading and Referrals**  
Chris Borges, Executive Director of Special Education, share the Class Loading and Referrals as of January 30, 2026. Currently county-operated programs serve 402 ESN students, 90 students in the CIRCLE program, 28 students in PIP, 34 students in DHH and 75 students in TIES for a total amount of 629 students across 80 classrooms countywide. Pending referrals remain at its highest for CIRCLE program. Chris shared that a new TIES classroom opened in West Fresno in January.
2. **PIP Referrals for 2026-27**  
Chris discussed the immediate need for PIP referrals due to lower pre-school numbers under revised TK eligibility. Districts are encouraged to refer students now to ensure placements by August.
3. **\*Percentage of Students Served**  
Chris reviewed the Fall 2024 CALPADS-based enrollment comparisons on the Percentage of Students Served spreadsheet and encouraged districts to report any discrepancies before the next annual update.

4. **\*Kids Day- May 1, 2026**  
Registration is now open. Attendance is capped at 2,000 students, with three adult tickets per classroom provided. Additional adult tickets may be purchased directly from the zoo. Extra tickets may become available after registration closes.
5. **PIP and CIRCLE Criteria**  
A deeper review of CIRCLE criteria will begin in March due to rising autism referrals and limited classroom capacity.
  - a) **Workgroup – March 27 at 10:30 a.m.**  
Heidi Baldwin and Melissa Rose, SELPA Autism Consultants, will participate.
6. **\*Diploma Workgroup Update**  
Chris summarized key decisions regarding diplomas for county-served high school students. Certificates of Completion will continue to be printed by districts, with student lists provided soon. No student will graduate this year on the alternative diploma pathway, but this will occur in two years. And for standard diplomas, the group recommends issuance by the school of location. For example, the high school hosting the TIES program.

**VIII. \*Federal IDEA Expenditure Report 1 for the 2025-26 Grant Award** E. Davidson  
Eddie Davidson, Student Services Fiscal Director, presented report 1 Expenditures from July 1 through December 31 have been compiled, the state has not yet released the 2025-26 grant award. Submission via the new GovGrants system is pending. Districts were encouraged to review balances, especially private school and CEIS funds.

**IX. \*Federal IDEA Expenditure Report 5 for the 2024-25 Grant Award** E. Davidson  
Eddie reviewed remaining balances for the 2024-25 grant year, noting that most funds have been spent but some allocations still require attention. Districts should ensure timely expenditure to avoid forfeiture, particularly for private school funds due to increased state scrutiny.

**X. Maintenance-of-Effort SEMAI for 2025-26, Due 3/15/26** E. Davidson  
Eddie reminded districts to verify MOE projection, especially where unfilled positions may create discrepancies between budgets and actuals. He described the function of “relieving vacancies” to better reflect true spending. A new MOE tool will be shared with CBOs in March and with the committee in April.

**XI. SELPA Special Education P-1 Apportionment for 2025-26** E. Davidson  
The P-1 certification was issued on February 18th. Eddie reported that updated allocation reports will be distributed to districts and superintendents, reflecting ADA and funding adjustments from February through May.

**XII. \*Proposed Changes to the Funding Allocation Plan, First Reading (Legal Cost Pool Changes)** E. Davidson  
Eddie presented proposed revisions to the Legal Cost Pool due to rising claims and limited sustainability. Recommendations include allowing member LEAs to access reimbursement two out of every three consecutive years, establishing maximum annual reimbursement caps: \$75,000 for LEAs with ADA >5,000, \$50,000 for ADA between 2,500-5,000, and \$20,000 for ADA <2,500, and removing unlimited claims language and adding verification requirements for ADR and legal actions. The revised language will proceed to SGC for first reading, then returning for approval.

**XIII. SEIS/CALPADS/Compliance**

R. Chachere

**A. SEIS/CALPADS**

Romy Chachere, SELPA Director, reported strong statewide performance on timeline compliance, with only a few very small LEAs missing benchmarks. Corrections are due April 9<sup>th</sup>. Fall 2 degree-of-support reporting is also nearly complete, with only three districts pending as of the meeting.

**B. Monitor and Compliance Reporting**

Romy provided an overview of annual determination letters, targeted and intensive monitoring tiers, upcoming CIM plans for 2026, and IEP implementation monitoring with student lists expected by early March and submissions due April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**XIV. Professional Development**

R. Chachere

Romy highlighted upcoming sessions including the March 6<sup>th</sup> All About Transitions training, the March 17<sup>th</sup> Conflict Prevention & Resolution through IEP Facilitation hybrid training. She also announced the upcoming SELPA needs-assessment survey, which will include planning questions for a new Paraeducator Bootcamp expected to launch in early fall.

**XV. \*Community Advisory Committee**

R. Chachere

**A. Vendor Fair – Kingsburg Elementary Charter District, April 28, 2026**

Romy announced the vendor fair hosted by Kingsburg Elementary Charter District has confirmed with approximately 25 vendors.

**XVI. Hot Topics & Lesson of the Month**

T. Frazier

**1. Annual Determination Letter Review**

R. Chachere

Romy reviewed navigation and data access features of the updated CALTAN Info website providing reminders of its usefulness for monitoring and planning.

**XVII. Future Agenda Items/Updates**

T. Frazier

Trina noted that this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IDEA.

**XVIII. Next Operations Committee Meeting, March 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Zoom**

T. Frazier

**XIX. Adjournment**

T. Frazier

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

*Jeff Moore / Erin Pasillas*