

Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Community Advisory Committee of the Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) is composed of parents of individuals with disabilities enrolled in public or private schools, parents of other pupils enrolled in school, pupils with disabilities and adults, general education teachers, special education teachers and other school personnel, representatives of other public and private agencies and persons concerned with the needs of individuals with disabilities. The majority of the CAC is composed of parents of pupils enrolled in schools in Ventura County SELPA; and a majority of such parents are parents of individuals with disabilities.

The CAC accepts as one of its main purposes the maintenance of open and free-flowing communication from the special education administration to the entire community, as well as directing information from the community to the administration. A rotation of members of the Operations Cabinet (Directors of Special Education) serve as liaison for the Operations Cabinet to the CAC; and the SELPA Director represents the Superintendents' Policy Council. Recommendations of annual priorities are received and forwarded by these people. Ongoing input to the Superintendents' Policy Council agenda supports consideration of all CAC comments.

A major focus of the CAC is community education directed toward awareness and information about special education. As a group, and individually in their communities, CAC committee members encourage involvement in and knowledge of special education as well as the general education of pupils with disabilities and their parents.

Selection of members of the CAC is the responsibility of each District Administrator of Special Education, acting for the local Board, and with its approval. Annually-staggered two-year terms are established so that no more than half of the members serve the first year of a term in any one year.

CAC meetings are generally held once a month, September-June, and all meetings are open to the public. Free childcare is provided. For meeting schedule, please call the SELPA office.

The CAC makes several brochures and booklets available free to families of students enrolled in special education programs in the Ventura County SELPA, please see our **parent information flyer** for a list.

VENTURA COUNTY SELPA COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) FACT SHEET *Information for Parents of Students In Special Education Programs*

1. What is SELPA?

"SELPA" stands for "Special Education Local Plan Area". We are an administrative unit which coordinates and facilitates special education issues and services for the 22 school districts in and around Ventura County. We serve over 16,000 students with disabilities and their families. Our tasks include: coordination of funding and reports with the California Department of Education; monitoring legal and compliance issues; personnel development (includes staff, families and community); and public awareness about special education.

2. What is the Purpose of CAC?

- ☆ Flow information to the community from the special education administration and vice versa.
- ☆ Advise special education administration of issues and concerns.
- ☆ Promote activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs.
- ☆ Sponsor parent training.

3. Who is on the CAC?

- ☆ Parents of individuals with exceptional need (*the majority*).

- ☆ Representatives of agencies serving individuals with exceptional needs.
- ☆ Special and general education staff.

4. When and Where Does the CAC Meet?

All meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, October through June, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

Free childcare is always available if reserved one week in advance. Call Laura Lozano at 482-2353. Meetings are held at the SELPA Office (Valle Lindo School), 777 Aileen Street, Camarillo.

5. Who Do I Contact for More Information?

Contact the SELPA at (805) 482-2353.