

**North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area
Community Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting February 26, 2026**

Location/Time: NOC SELPA Office/ 11:30 a.m.

In Attendance:

Ms. Chloe Medina, La Habra City School District (Parent Representative and CAC Chairperson)
Ms. Claudia Licon, Buena Park School District (Parent Representative)
Ms. Kary Guzman, Fullerton Joint Union High School District (Parent Representative)
Mrs. Catie Williamson, Fullerton Elementary School District (District Representative and CAC Secretary)
Mrs. Karen Yingling, Fullerton Elementary School District (Parent Representative)
Ms. Cherie Hayes, Buena Park School District (District Representative)
Dr. Robin Gilligan, North Orange County SELPA Executive Director
Ms. Laura Margulieux, North Orange County SELPA Executive Assistant

I. Call to Order:

NOC SELPA CAC Chairperson Ms. Chloe Medina called to order the North Orange County (NOC) Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting at 11:38 a.m.

II. Approval of the North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda for February 26, 2026.

The NOC SELPA CAC Meeting Agenda for February 26, 2026 was presented for approval.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA CAC Meeting Agenda for February 26, 2026 was initiated by Mrs. Karen Yingling. Ms. Cherie Hayes seconded the motion.

6 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

III. Open Session:

No additional items were brought forward for discussion.

IV. Action Item(s):

1.0 NOC SELPA CAC Board Minutes of Meeting January 15, 2026

The NOC SELPA CAC Board Minutes of Meeting January 15, 2026 were presented and reviewed. There was no feedback or questions from the members present.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA CAC Board Minutes of Meeting January 15, 2026

was initiated by Mrs. Catie Williamson. Mrs. Karen Yingling seconded the motion.

6 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

V. Discussion/Information Item(s):

2.0 2026-2027 Budget Proposal and Special Education Funding Advocacy Letter Template

Dr. Gilligan reviewed the amount of federal funding that districts receive from the federal government for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and noted that the funding level set by IDEA has never been matched. Mrs. Yingling shared that she is part of an advocacy group that will be going to Sacramento to advocate for Special Education funding.

Dr. Gilligan shared the special education funding projection for 2026/2027 and highlighted the Governor's proposal to increase the base rate for special education students, which is the rate that districts receive for special education students based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA). This proposal is historic because no previous Governor has included a base rate increase in their proposed budget. Dr. Gilligan noted that this increase is intended to create one base rate for all of California rather than the current structure of different rates for different areas, except for LAUSD. There was discussion regarding the observation that this proposal does not take into account differences in cost of living across the state, and it was noted that while it may not be a perfect solution, this base rate is to supplement the general education funding that all students generate and ensure resources for the provision of special education services. As such, the potential increase will still result in additional special education funding for local districts. There appears to be significant support for the proposal at the state level, as the Legislature has already prepared language to amend the Education Code in the event the increase is approved by the legislators of California and signed by the Governor.

Dr. Gilligan then shared the Special Education funding advocacy letter template disseminated by the Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education (CAFSE) and asked whether the NOC SELPA CAC members were interested in submitting the letter to show their support for Special Education funding. Mrs. Yingling suggested we personalize the letter with parent input. Dr. Gilligan offered to submit the letter on behalf of the CAC and will be looking into adding parent involvement through the Legislative Sharing Day below.

3.0 Planning for Upcoming Events

i. March 26, 2026 Presentation: *Bodies, Boundaries, and Independence*

Mrs. Yingling suggested that teachers let parents know about this presentation. It was shared that Buena Park School District had a strong turnout when they hosted a watch party for the January 2026 CAC presentation for parents who were not able to join the Zoom live. The SELPA, Buena Park School District, and La Habra City

School District are hosting watch parties for this presentation, with the NOC SELPA serving as the location for the Fullerton area. A moderator will be available for questions at each location, and there was discussion regarding how to share the presentation flyer through social media. It was also suggested that the flyer for the April 2026 presentation be available to hand out to those attending the watch parties.

ii. April 16, 2026 Presentation: *Preparing for Summer: Make-and-Take Tools and Resources*

Dr. Gilligan asked for suggestions of tangible resources/tools to add to this presentation. Parents will need to register to ensure enough materials are available for the Make-and-Take activity.

iii. Legislative Sharing Day: May 6, 2026 (Sacramento, CA)

Dr. Gilligan shared the flyer and gave options for CAC parent representatives to go individually or as a group. She will confirm if costs may be covered by State SELPA or other agencies. If so, we will determine if 1 or 2 representatives are allowed per SELPA. Ms. Chloe Medina (Chair) and Mrs. Karen Yingling (Vice-Chair) are interested in attending on behalf of the NCO SELPA CAC.

iv. Trunk-or-Treat and Resource Fair: October 16, 2026

It was noted that volunteers will be needed to decorate their trunks as well as volunteers to provide alternative items to distribute besides candy. There were suggestions to ask high school volunteers and the council PTAs, as well as partnering with some high schools and clubs that want to come. A meeting can be scheduled in June to plan and discuss details with CAC Board Members. The CAC Chair noted that vendors will need to be contacted now to confirm attendance in October.

4.0 2025-2026 NOC SELPA CAC Board Meeting Dates

The dates of the upcoming 2025-2026 NOC SELPA CAC board meetings were shared and confirmed as follows. There is no meeting scheduled after the March presentation, as the presentation date was changed after the meeting dates were scheduled.

- Thursday, April 16, 2026

5.0 2026-2027 CAC Meetings and Presentations

i. Presentation Topic Ideas from SCDD

It was suggested to have the Procedural Safeguards review as the topic for September to start off the school year and reach out to the State Council on

Developmental Disabilities to present, as it is on their list of presentation topics. All of the State Council presentations are linked for CAC members to review and bring suggestions in April.

There was discussion about staggering the presentation and board meeting dates. This would need to be approved at the next meeting in April.

6.0 Information Sharing: LEA Parent Ambassador Programs and Parent Engagement

Ms. Catie Williamson shared about the Special Education Parent Ambassador program that was implemented. The program involves having a parent of a special education student serve as an ambassador to connect with other parents of special education students at their site. The district meets with the ambassadors each month to discuss various topics and provide a forum to share feedback between the district and school sites.

Dr. Gilligan shared a quick handout that she started with some information to share with those organizing events, so that the events are accessible and enjoyable for all students and families. This handout can be reviewed and fine-tuned at future meetings if there is interest.

There was also discussion regarding the role of the NOC SELPA to serve as a liaison for both our districts and parents, as parents may not be aware that the SELPA is available to them. Dr. Gilligan noted that the SELPA is available for both district staff and families to provide support and connect families with the proper resources, whether at the district level or outside resources such as the local Family Empowerment Center.

There was a suggestion from a parent about sensory rooms at every school. Dr. Gilligan explained that districts would decide what resources are implemented at each site. Dr. Gilligan further suggested that the parent is welcome to contact the NOC SELPA for further questions. It was noted that the CAC does support parents and families of students identified for special education. If any parents are seeking resources, they may contact the SELPA for further assistance or schedule a meeting with the Executive Director or Coordinator. Information about how to contact the SELPA is available for the NOC SELPA website or by calling the main office phone number.

7.0 Community Resource Sharing

Any helpful resource information shared with the NOC SELPA can be disseminated to districts and parents who are on the CAC email distribution list.

VI. Suggested Items for Next Agenda

The priorities for the April 2026 agenda were identified as follows:

1. Finalizing dates for next year's CAC presentations and meetings
2. Reviewing the NOC SELPA Annual Budget and Annual Service Plan
3. Discussing the need for planning time during the summer in preparation for the October Trunk or Treat resource fair.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.