

**North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area
Superintendent Cabinet
Minutes of Meeting May 23, 2025**

Location/Time: North Orange County SELPA Office / 9:30 a.m.

In Attendance:

Dr. Steve McLaughlin, Superintendent, Fullerton Joint Union High School District, and
Chairperson of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet
Dr. Julianne Lee, Superintendent, Buena Park School District
Dr. Robert Pletka, Superintendent, Fullerton School District
Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent, La Habra City School District
Mr. Jim Coombs, Superintendent, Lowell Joint School District
Dr. Stefan Bean, Orange County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services Division, Orange
County Department of Education
Mrs. Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, Educational Programs Division, Orange
County Department of Education
Dr. Robin Gilligan, Executive Director, North Orange County SELPA

I. Call to Order:

Superintendent Dr. Steve McLaughlin called to order the North Orange County (NOC) Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Superintendent Cabinet Meeting at 10:08 a.m.

II. Approval of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for May 23, 2025.

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for May 23, 2025 was presented.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for May 23, 2025 was initiated by Dr. Stefan Bean. Mr. Jim Coombs seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried.

III. Open Session:

Superintendent Dr. Steve McLaughlin called for any communication from the public. No communication from the public was provided.

IV. Action Item(s):

1.0 Approval of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting January 24, 2025.

The North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting March 28, 2025 were presented for approval.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting March 28, 2025 was initiated by Dr. Stefan Bean. Mr. Jim Coombs seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried.

2.0 Approval of the NOC SELPA 2025-2026 Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Schedule

The NOC SELPA 2025-2026 Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Schedule was presented for approval. The dates and times were reviewed by the NOC SELPA Superintendents' Executive Assistants prior to the meeting to ensure availability.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA 2025-2026 Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Schedule was made by Mr. Jim Coombs. Dr. Stefan Bean seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried

3.0 Approval of the NOC SELPA 2025-2026 Local Plan Sections (A) Contacts and Certifications, (D) Annual Budget Plan, (E) Annual Service Plan, and Attachments

NOC SELPA Executive Director Dr. Robin Gilligan reviewed the CDE-required sections for approval of the NOC SELPA Local Plan Submission for 2025-2026.

The SELPA-level and associated LEA-level revenue and expenditure information was reviewed. There was a question regarding whether this information aligns with the current active NOC SELPA Funding Model, and the NOC SELPA Executive Director confirmed that the information does align. Any future changes to the NOC SELPA funding model that impact Local Plan Section D, will require an amendment to the Local Plan if approved as presented at this time. Amendments may be submitted to CDE with approval by the Superintendent's Council at any time during the school year.

The service descriptions and related attachments were reviewed, and there were no further questions.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA 2025-2026 Local Plan Sections (A) Contacts and

Certifications, (D) Annual Budget Plan, (E) Annual Service Plan, and Attachments was initiated by Dr. Robert Pletka. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 yes, 0 No

Motion carried.

4.0 Approval of the NOC SELPA Regionalized Services Proposed 2025- 2026 Adopted Budget and 2024-2025 Estimated Actuals Budget Report

The NOC SELPA Regionalized Services Proposed 2025-2026 Adopted Budget and 2024-2025 Estimated Actuals Budget Report was presented for approval.

This report is based on the current approved NOC SELPA Funding Model, and the fiscal advisor to the NOC SELPA noted that the proposed budget is based on projected ADA for 2025-2026.

A motion to approve the North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area Regionalized Services Proposed 2025-2026 Adopted Budget and 2024-2025 Estimated Actuals Budget Report was initiated by Dr. Mario Carlos. Dr. Steve McLaughlin seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried

5.0 Approval of the NOC SELPA 2025-2026 Parentally Placed Private School Student Proportionate Share Service Model

The NOC SELPA Parentally Placed Private School Student Proportionate Share Service Model was presented for approval. This item is approved annually and is calculated based on individual district Parentally Placed Private School Student counts. This service model will allow each district to utilize the funds calculated for their PPPSS count.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA 2025- 2026 Parentally Placed Private School Student Proportionate Share Service Model was initiated by Dr. Stefan Bean. Dr. Robert Pletka seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion Carried

6.0 Approval of the NOC SELPA SEIS User License Agreement

The NOC SELPA SEIS User Licence Agreement was presented for approval. This three-year agreement covers the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA SEIS User License Agreement was initiated by Mr. Jim Coombs. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried.

V. Discussion/Information Item(s):

7.0 Review of the NOC SELPA Funding Model and Sample ADA-Based Model with Proposed Next Steps

NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson Dr. Steve McLaughlin shared a summary of the Cabinet's direction to the NOC SELPA Executive Director to provide fiscal study sessions, refine the NOC SELPA funding model, and activate a funding model that aligns with AB602 allocations based on funded ADA.

The NOC SELPA Executive Director briefly reviewed the presentations shared at previous NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meetings during the 2024-2025 school year. This included a summary of the evolution from the J-50 funding model to the AB602 funding model and a review of the consultation with Eide Bailly and School Services of California (SSC) on sample multi-district SELPA funding models.

The Associate Superintendent of the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Administrative Services Division and fiscal advisor to the NOC SELPA, Mr. David Giordano, reviewed the [current NOC SELPA Funding Model](#) and noted that the base funding is calculated using projected current year ADA. Additional components of the funding model were reviewed, including:

- Low incidence funding, which is based on current year ADA.
- PSRS (Program Specialist/Regionalized Services) funding, which is equal for the smaller NOC SELPA member LEAs and equal for the larger NOC SELPA LEAs.
- Out of Home Care funding, which is based on current year ADA
- Extraordinary Cost, which is a funding pot determined by CDE that any LEA can claim.

Orange County property tax revenue and the California Department of Education (CDE)'s equalization requirement was discussed. Given that Orange County's property tax revenue is higher than the statutorily designated cap, this excess revenue is distributed to other LEAs determined by CDE under this requirement. In the North Orange County SELPA, the excess property tax revenue is distributed to Anaheim School District and Irvine Unified School District.

Following this review, there was an opportunity for the NOC SELPA Superintendent

Cabinet members to ask clarifying questions. During this opportunity, [the proposal process recommended by SSC](#), presented as a previously approved contract, was shared. There was conversation regarding whether the Superintendents would like to have members of the NOC SELPA Directors and Business Officials Council serve on the committee discussed in the SSC proposal. It was expressed that the committee should be composed solely of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet members, with an emphasis on collaboration and mutual support between all members, including OCDE.

There was support for the idea of phasing the implementation of a new funding model, as it was noted that large changes can be challenging for smaller LEAs to implement quickly.

There was a question regarding retroactively implementing any funding model changes to July 1, 2025, and it was agreed to seek legal input on this topic. Orange County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Stefan Bean agreed to consult with an alternative legal counsel, other than OCDE lead general counsel on the answer of the possibility of the retro-activation should the funding model be approved in August. The cost would be covered by OCDE. Given the uncertainty expressed by the state regarding projections for the coming years, the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson directed the NOC SELPA Executive Director to include the NOC SELPA funding model as an action item no later than the November NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting agenda.

Following the proposed process outlined by SSC, there will be collaboration meetings that will be held as Special NOC SELPA Cabinet Meetings in June and July 2025, with a presentation by the SSC Consultant at the August NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting. The Orange County Superintendent of Schools confirmed that the cost of the SSC Consultant will be covered by OCDE.

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson shared agreement with the consensus of Cabinet members to support county programs, just as the NOC SELPA does with smaller LEAs, however noted that transparency is still needed regarding the NOC SELPA funding model and the level of funding contributed to county programs. There was discussion on this topic, and the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson directed the NOC SELPA Executive Director to work with SSC to investigate the impact of offsetting the fee increase for all LEAs in Orange County to send their students to county programs. The NOC SELPA fiscal advisor then shared [the Sample Funding Model using funded ADA](#) and reviewed the potential impact on funding for the county special schools programs, along with the associated changes in billback for NOC SELPA member LEAs specifically. The sample funded ADA model template indicates a decrease of approximately \$1.4 million distributed to OCDE Special Schools from the NOC SELPA. If this funding were reallocated, the loss would result in an increase to the cost per student rate of approximately \$3,852 for all LEAs. It was noted that this funding is currently being used by OCDE to subsidize rates for any LEA who contracts with OCDE Special Schools. Any changes would need to be carefully navigated and properly communicated with other Orange County LEAs.

There was a question regarding implementing a discounted fee rate during the coming school year for students in NOC SELPA member LEAs who place students in county Special Schools while the funding model is under review. The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson asked the NOC SELPA Executive Director to obtain an answer to this question.

Following the extensive conversation, the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson summarized the directives for the NOC SELPA Executive Director as follows:

1. Execute the SSC proposed process to update the NOC SELPA funding model. The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet members will serve as the stakeholders on this committee, and the NOC SELPA Executive Director will work with the SSC Consultant and committee members to schedule meetings during June and July 2025.
2. Include an item on the August 2025 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting agenda regarding the NOC SELPA Funding Model and recommendations from the SSC Consultant with actionable items, if appropriate.
3. Include an action item on the November 2025 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting agenda regarding the NOC SELPA Funding Model and recommendations from the SSC Consultant, if no action is taken at the August 2025 meeting.
4. Obtain an outside legal opinion on retroactively applying any 2026-2027 funding model changes to the 2025-2026 school year.
5. Obtain an answer to the question regarding a discounted fee rate for the 2025-2026 school year for students in NOC SELPA member LEAs who are attending county Special Schools.

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson then expressed appreciation for the Orange County Superintendent of Schools and the NOC SELPA fiscal advisor for their support of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet's desire to promote transparency and understanding of the current funding model and for engaging in the process to make changes.

8.0 2025 Governor's May Revised Budget

No information was shared at this time due to time constraints.

9.0 NOC SELPA Member Report or LEA Information Sharing

No updates were shared at this time due to time constraints.

VI. Suggested Items for Next Agenda

As noted above in agenda item 7.0, the agenda for the August NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting will include a presentation from SSC regarding recommended changes to the

NOC SELPA funding model, with potential actionable items if appropriate. At a minimum, action will be taken at the November 2025 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting regarding the recommended changes.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the May 23, 2025 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting was initiated by Dr. Julianne Lee. Mr. Jim Coombs seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.