

**North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area
Superintendent Cabinet
Minutes of Meeting January 23, 2026**

Location/Time: North Orange County SELPA Office / 8:45 a.m.

In Attendance:

Dr. Steve McLaughlin, Superintendent, Fullerton Joint Union High School District, and
Chairperson of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet
Dr. Julienne Lee, Superintendent, Buena Park School District
Dr. Robert Pletka, Superintendent, Fullerton School District
Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent, La Habra City School District
Ms. Rhonda Overby, 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
Dr. Chad Hammitt, Deputy Superintendent, Fullerton School District
Dr. Robin Gilligan, Executive Director, North Orange County SELPA
Ms. Anjanette Pelletier, North Orange County SELPA Funding Model Consultant
Ms. Patricia Banuelos, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, Orange County Department of
Education

I. Call to Order:

North Orange County (NOC) Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Superintendent
Cabinet Chairperson Dr. Steve McLaughlin called to order the NOC SELPA Superintendent
Cabinet Meeting at 8:49 a.m.

**II. Approval of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for January 23,
2026**

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for January 23, 2026 was
presented.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for
January 23, 2026 was initiated by Ms. Rhonda Overby. Dr. Mario Carlos seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Robert Pletka and Dr. Stefan Bean arrived after the approval of this item.

III. Open Session:

Dr. McLaughlin called for any communication from the public. No communication from the

public was provided.

IV. Action Item(s):

1.0 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting November 21, 2025

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting November 21, 2025 were presented for approval.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting November 21, 2025 was initiated by Dr. Julienne Lee. Dr. Mario Carlos seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Robert Pletka and Dr. Stefan Bean arrived after the approval of this item.

2.0 NOC SELPA Low Incidence Funding Distribution Proposals

NOC SELPA funding model consultant Ms. Anjanette Pelletier was introduced and began her presentation by reviewing slides 1-9 that provide an overview of the process to date undertaken by the Superintendent Cabinet to update the NOC SELPA funding model. Following approval at the August 22, 2025 Superintendent Cabinet meeting to allocate AB 602 funds to NOC SELPA districts based on funded ADA, Ms. Pelletier reviewed the current Low Incidence (LI) funding distribution model. Under the current model, LI funds are allocated based on current-year average daily attendance (ADA), with \$1,803 allocated to the NOC SELPA Regionalized Administration (RA) budget. Two options were then presented for consideration, along with examples of the amounts each district would receive under each option:

1. Distribute LI funds to districts based on prior-year LI pupil count to align with how the funds are generated and continue allocating \$1,803 to the RA budget.
2. Distribute LI funds to districts based on prior-year LI pupil count and discontinue the \$1,803 allocation.

Dr. Steve McLaughlin asked for clarification regarding how the current model using ADA was established, and another question was asked regarding the number of other SELPAs that distribute LI funds based on pupil count. Ms. Pelletier explained that the current ADA model was implemented by SELPAs across California when LI funding initially became available, but changes to this funding in 2020-2021 opened the door for SELPAs to reconsider the “old ways” and move towards a distribution model based on “where the students sit.”

There was agreement that distributing the funds based on where students are located is

appropriate, though it was noted that one NOC SELPA district would be negatively impacted by moving to a LI pupil count-based model. This impact was acknowledged, and Ms. Pelletier confirmed that the last slide of the presentation shows a net positive for that district based on other recommendations.

There was conversation about the importance of considering transition time when implementing funding changes to allow planning time for districts that may be negatively impacted. It was noted that more clarity regarding specific LI funding amounts will be available in March/April after the California Department of Education (CDE) releases the funds at the end of February.

Following confirmation that the district that would be most impacted by either of the options is okay with moving forward based on the overall positive result, Dr. Robert Pletka made a motion to implement option #2 beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Dr. Stefan Bean seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

3.0 NOC SELPA Program Specialist/Regionalized Services Funding Proposals

Ms. Pelletier then reviewed the current NOC SELPA Program Specialist/Regionalized Services (PS/RS) funding distribution model, which is based on the average cost among NOC SELPA districts for (1) Program Specialist at the time these funds were originally released by CDE. She then shared a recommendation to shift all PS/RS funding back to the NOC SELPA RA budget to align with the original intent of these funds and adjust NOC SELPA districts' contributions to the RA budget accordingly.

Dr. Steve McLaughlin asked for a proposal regarding this recommendation, and Dr. Robert Pletka made a motion to move forward with implementing the recommendation beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Dr. Julienne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

V. Discussion/Information Item(s):

4.0 Study Session: NOC SELPA Out of Home Care Funding Distribution

Ms. Pelletier shared a summary of Out of Home Care (OOHC) funding generation, noting that it is based on prior-year foster youth pupil counts and the number of hospital beds within the SELPA's geographic area. Slide 14 contains a recommendation to shift the distribution of OOHC funds from the current claim-based pool to a model based on average prior-year monthly foster youth counts that would be pulled from CALPADS by the SELPA on the last working day of each month. This recommendation also included shifting the Proportionate Share of Saving funds (line E-6 in the image shown on slide 14) to the RA budget.

It was noted that this proposal is consistent with the ideas of funds being distributed in alignment with how they are generated and going “where the students sit.” There was discussion about how to allocate the 2024-2025 OOHC reserve funds, and the consensus was to follow the current reserve distribution model to allow fiscal teams a transition period to adjust to the change.

The Superintendent Cabinet then agreed to take action at the March Superintendent Cabinet meeting regarding the recommendation to distribute OOHC funds based on average prior-year monthly foster youth counts and allocate the Proportionate Share of Saving funds to the RA budget.

5.0 Study Session: NOC SELPA Administrative Unit (AU) Cost Considerations

Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services Mr. David Giordano shared information on the recommended cost to the NOC SELPA for fiscal support and increasing the Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) from 7.5% to the maximum allowable rate of 9.3%. OCDE Executive Director of Fiscal Services Ms. Patricia Banuelos also shared the job descriptions and duties for the positions/titles of Project Accountant (50% FTE), Accounting Manager, and Executive Director. Clarification on the scope of these positions and support to district fiscal teams regarding NOC SELPA funding was requested.

Dr. Steve McLaughlin requested that salary schedule information and staffing costs for the three fiscal positions and the NOC SELPA staff be shared at the March Superintendent Cabinet meeting. There was discussion regarding whether indirect costs were being charged on staffing, and it was confirmed that those costs were embedded in the salaries for the RA budget and also applied to Itinerant Billing.

NOC SELPA AU fees will be included as an action item on the March Superintendent Cabinet meeting agenda.

6.0 CDE Annual Determination Letters

NOC SELPA Executive Director Dr. Robin Gilligan shared information from CDE regarding the Annual Determination Letters that will be sent out in February 2026. There were no questions.

7.0 NOC SELPA Member Report or LEA Information Sharing

Noting that this is his last NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting before retiring from the Fullerton School District, Dr. Robert Pletka shared his appreciation for his colleagues and fellow Superintendent Cabinet members.

VI. Suggested Items for Next Agenda

No additional suggested items were discussed beyond those noted in items 4.0 and 5.0 above.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the January 23, 2026 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting was initiated by Dr. Mario Carlos. Dr. Robert Pletka seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.