

**North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area
Superintendent Cabinet
Minutes of Meeting March 27, 2026**

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. Julienne Lee, Superintendent, Buena Park School District
Dr. Chad Hammitt, Interim Superintendent, Fullerton School District
Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent, La Habra City School District
Dr. Rhonda Overby, Superintendent, Lowell Joint School District
Mr. David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services Division, and
Designee for Superintendent Dr. Stefan Bean, Orange County Department of Education
Ms. Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, Connections, Orange County Department of
Education
Dr. Robin Gilligan, Executive Director, North Orange County SELPA
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 9:36 a.m.

**II. Approval of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for March 27,
2026**

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for March 27, 2026 was presented.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for
March 27, 2026 was initiated by Dr. Chad Hammitt. Dr. Julienne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried.

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 January 23, 2026

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting January 23, 2026 were presented for approval.

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

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried.

2.0 NOC SELPA Out of Home Care Funding Distribution Recommendation

NOC SELPA Executive Director Dr. Robin Gilligan reviewed slides from NOC SELPA Funding Model Consultant Ms. Anjanette Pelletier's presentation at the January 23, 2026 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting. The highlighted topics included the commitments and interests agreed to by the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet, a roadmap of the funding model review process, and the proposals that have already been approved.

Dr. Gilligan then reviewed Ms. Pelletier's recommendation regarding NOC SELPA Out of Home Care (OOHC) funding, which contained two components:

1. Discontinue the current NOC SELPA claim-based funding pool model and instead allocate OOHC funding to NOC SELPA LEAs based on prior year average monthly foster youth counts. This recommendation aligns with how OOHC funding is generated by CDE, which uses SELPA-wide PY Foster Youth counts.
2. Utilize the Proportionate Share of Funding (item E-6 in the image on slide 6) to fund the remainder of the Regionalized Administration (RA) budget. This Proportionate Share of Funding is the reserve funding in the OOHC state-level pool and is not generated by LEAs; instead, it is distributed to SELPAs to support SELPA administrative operations.

Two simulations showing projected OOHC allocations for each NOC SELPA district for 2025-2026, one based on the current claim-based pool model and a second one based on Ms. Pelletier's recommendation, were reviewed. During this review, Dr. Gilligan oriented the Superintendents to the last slide showing the overall impact of all funding model changes, including the OOHC recommendation that was approved in agenda item 2.0 above, and noted that Ms. Pelletier felt confident in the projections in the bottom chart that includes the increased special education ADA base rate of \$999 proposed by the Governor. This projection shows a net increase in funding being allocated to each NOC SELPA district, and it is anticipated that the base rate increase will be approved by

the California legislature. It was reiterated that special education ADA is separate from and in addition to the ADA that every student (both in general and special education) generates. It was also noted that the Proportionate Share of Funding is not generated by the LEAs and is allocated by the CDE to SELPAs specifically to provide administrative support in this area.

Dr. Gilligan then shared each district's available OOHC reserve balance and noted that a few NOC SELPA districts have built up a significant amount of money in their OOHC over several years. She explained that these reserve amounts are based on the amount of OOHC funding left over after any claims are paid and are allocated under the current funding model based on an 80-20 formula, depending on whether or not the district submitted a claim. All NOC SELPA reserve funds can be requested by the districts at any time, and the balances are regularly shared with the NOC SELPA Directors and Business Officials Council members. The other reserves will be reviewed separately, with a review of the Regionalized Services reserve included under agenda item 5.0.

Following this review, there was an opportunity for the Superintendents to ask questions or request clarification on any of the information presented, but none were brought forward.

Dr. Mario Carlos made a motion to approve Ms. Pelletier's recommendation regarding OOHC funding as outlined above. Dr. Chad Hammitt seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

3.0 NOC SELPA Administrative Unit (AU) Fee Increase

Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services Mr. David Giordano reviewed a recommendation regarding the addition of fiscal support costs to the fees charged by the Administrative Unit (AU) for the NOC SELPA to help offset direct costs incurred by the Department in supporting the SELPA, and an increase to the Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) from 7.5% to the 2025-2026 state-approved ICR of 9.3%.

There was conversation regarding the indirect cost rate (ICR), and it was confirmed that, after the California Department of Education (CDE) publishes the rates for the coming fiscal year, this information will be shared with the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet members annually in November for discussion and/or approval of the projected state-approved indirect rate for the AU. For 2026-2027, the allowable ICR for OCDE, currently serving as the AU for the NOC SELPA, is projected to be 9.32%.

Dr. Steve McLaughlin then proposed the following:

1. Increase the ICR for the NOC SELPA AU to the allowable state-approved rate of 9.32% for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
2. Fund the following AU fiscal positions at the FTE specified below beginning in

2026-2027:

- a. Executive Director of Fiscal Services: 10% FTE
 - b. Accounting and Budget Support Manager: 20% FTE
 - c. Project Accountant: 50% FTE
3. In the event that the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet selects a member district other than OCDE to serve as the NOC SELPA AU, the allowable state-approved ICR rate will be aligned to that of the new AU, and the funded fiscal positions will be aligned to reflect the equivalent (or closest available) positions and titles of the new AU at the corresponding FTEs outlined above.

Dr. Rhonda Overby made a motion to approve Dr. McLaughlin's proposal. Dr. Julienne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

V. Discussion/Information Item(s):

4.0 Certified P1-ADA and Base Grant Funding Exhibits

Dr. Robin Gilligan shared the certified P-1 Funding Exhibits from CDE showing the funded ADA and corresponding funding amounts generated by each NOC SELPA district.

It was noted that the generated amounts shown in the funding exhibits are not the same as the allocated amounts each district receives, as the allocated amounts are determined by the SELPA's funding model.

5.0 Study Session: NOC SELPA Regionalized Administration (RA) Budget and Itinerant Services Billing

Dr. Gilligan presented the NOC SELPA RA budget by reviewing the various funding sources that flow through the NOC SELPA, including the AB 602 base grant entitlement, property taxes, and the other funding sources that the Superintendent Cabinet has reviewed during the funding model update process. She noted that, following the approval of Ms. Pelletier's recommendations, NOC SELPA operations will now be funded by Program Specialist/Regionalized Services (PS/RS) funds, OOHC Proportionate Share funds, and other grants as originally intended by CDE, with the other funds being allocated back to the districts.

Slide 4 of the presentation was highlighted to show that these funding sources are sufficient to fully cover the RA budget, and slide 5 was shared to provide information on the general categories contained in the RA budget. Dr. Gilligan explained that the projected budget is always conservative, and any unspent funds are allocated back to the districts' Regionalized Services reserve accounts at the end of the fiscal year, so no funding is ever rolled over. The RA budget has remained stable, and no increases are anticipated outside of COLA, staff salary increases, and benefit cost increases as

approved in the bargaining unit agreements. There was a question regarding what would happen if the PSRS, OOHIC Proportionate Share, and grant funds were unable to fully cover the RA budget. It was shared that any interest generated by NOC SELPA funding would be utilized first to cover the remaining portion. In the event the available funds and interest are insufficient, districts will contribute to the overage to share in the cost.

The Regionalized Services reserve balances were shared and, as noted under agenda item 2.0 above, are available to be requested at any time.

Dr. Gilligan then reviewed the Itinerant Services billing, explaining that these costs reflect only the salaries, benefits, and incidentals for NOC SELPA staff members who are not under the RA budget. At the end of each fiscal year, the districts are billed only for exact costs, which are typically less than the projected budget. The 2024-2025 Itinerant Services Actuals and 2025-2026 Itinerant Services Billing Projections were highlighted for reference. Dr. Gilligan then shared a recommendation to move the NOC SELPA Assistive Technology Specialist position from the RA budget to Itinerant Services billing and move one NOC SELPA Coordinator position from Itinerant Services billing to the RA budget. Dr. McLaughlin asked for a more detailed rationale for this move to be presented in May to provide the Superintendents with more context for Dr. Gilligan's recommendation. Dr. Gilligan shared an example of the oversight by one of the Coordinators for Early Start Infant/Toddler program under a grant covered through the RA budget. Dr. Lee agreed with the idea of presenting a rationale and noted that the shared example would be helpful to include at the May meeting.

RA budget projections and Itinerant Services billing projections for 2026-2027 will be shared at the May 2026 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting, along with more information regarding the evolution of the Assistive Technology Specialist and Coordinator roles referenced in Dr. Gilligan's recommendation.

The presentation concluded with a look at the next phase of NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet study sessions, which will occur over the 2026-2027 school year and focus on SELPA roles, services, and supports.

6.0 Above and Beyond Award Celebration Date and Recipients

Dr. Gilligan shared that the 2026 NOC SELPA Above and Beyond Award celebration will be held at 3:00PM on April 23, 2026 at the Buena Park Community Center.

7.0 NOC SELPA Member Report or LEA Information Sharing

No feedback or updates were shared.

VI. Closed Session

A. NOC SELPA Executive Director Evaluation Protocol

The closed session began at 11:08 a.m. to discuss the NOC SELPA Executive

Director evaluation protocol.

A redline version of the protocol was shared to change references to the OCDE Chief of Special Education Services to now be the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson, with the OCDE Associate Superintendent of Special Education Services serving as a support to the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson and NOC SELPA Executive Director.

Dr. Gilligan shared an update on 2025-2026 goals and activities to date.

Final input for the evaluation will be requested from the Superintendents by the May NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting, with the final evaluation to be held by July 2026.

The updated evaluation protocol will be brought for approval at the May 2026 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting, with any approved changes going into effect in 2026-2027.

The closed session concluded at 11:30 a.m.

VII. Suggested Items for Next Agenda

No additional suggested items were discussed beyond those noted above.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the March 27, 2026 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting was initiated by Dr. Chad Hammitt. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion. Dr. Steve McLaughlin was not present for the final vote.

Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.