

**Section 504**

Section 504 is a component of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities, public and private, that receive federal financial assistance. Any person is protected who (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (2) has a record of such an impairment, or (3) is regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, and performing manual tasks.

**Search and Serve**

Active and systematic involvement by the educational community to locate children who may need special education services beyond the regular curriculum and program options.

**Solutions Conference**

This is a component of the SELPA Alternative Dispute Resolution Process. The solutions conference involves both a parent and a district representative utilizing a structured discussion approach with two trained mediators. The goal is to have the parties work together to come to mutually acceptable agreement that will best meet the needs of the child. The solutions panel consists of a parent of a special needs child and an educator outside of your district.

**Special Education**

Specifically designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

**Special Education Hearing Office (SEHO)**

McGeorge School of Law is the designated agency that handles due process hearings and conducts mediations when there is a dispute between districts and parents.

**Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)**

Individual district, group of districts, or districts and County Office of Education which form a consortium to ensure that a full continuum of special education services is available to all eligible students within its boundaries.

**Specialized Physical Health Care Services**

Health services prescribed by the child's licensed physician and/or surgeon which are necessary during the school day to enable the child to attend school and are written into the IEP. Designated providers are appropriately trained and supervised as defined in EC.

**State Operated Programs (SOP)**

Special schools operated by the California Department of Education for the education of students with disabilities including individual assessment services and the development of individualized education programs for students who are deaf and/or blind.

**Stay Put**

During the pendency of a hearing a child with a disability must remain in his or her current educational placement unless the parents of the child agree otherwise.

**Student with a Disability**

A student who has been properly evaluated in accordance with regulations who is found to have a disability which results in the need for special education and related services.

## **Supplementary Aids and Services**

Aids, services and other supports that are provided in general education classes or other education-related settings to enable children with disabilities to be educated with typically developing peers to the maximum extent appropriate. These aids and services must be noted on the IEP.

## **Surrogate Parent**

Individual who is assigned by the SELPA to act as a surrogate for the parents, when no parent can be identified and the district, after reasonable efforts, cannot discover the whereabouts of a parent, or the child is a ward of the state under the laws of that state. The surrogate may represent the child in all matters relating to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement and the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

## **T**

### **Therapeutic Day School (TDS)**

A special day class for students with emotional disturbance where county mental health provides intensive counseling services.

### **Transition**

Process of preparing a student to function in future environments and emphasizing movement from one educational program to another (e.g., infant program to preschool) or from school to work.

### **Transition Services**

A coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability that (1) Is designed with outcome-oriented process, that promotes movement from school to post-school activities. (2) Is based on the individual student's needs, taking into account the student's preferences, and interests.

## **U**

### **Unilateral Placement**

When a parent removes their child from a public educational placement into a private placement outside the IEP process.

## **V, W, X, Y, Z**