Guidelines for Purchase of iPads by the Low Incidence Committee of the San Mateo County SELPA

Recent guidance from the California Department of Education directs that “basic computers or other basic technology should **NOT** be purchased with low incidence funds unless it can be clearly demonstrated to fulfill a **specialized function**, format, or adaptation directly related to the low incidence disability.” (Low Incidence Funding 2011-12, Administration and Support from CA Department of Education – [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/documents/ligidins1112.doc](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/documents/ligidins1112.doc))

In light of this guidance, the LIF Committee believes it can consider for **reimbursement** devices such as iPads for students with low incidence disabilities when the IEP document reflects a defined need. The following must be documented in the Student’s IEP:

- The Student **must** have a low incidence disability (vision, hearing or orthopedic impairment).
- The Student’s IEP **must** include appropriate IEP goals tied to the use of this device.

Due to the unique nature of the iPad and the necessity of having both iTunes account and email accounts tied to the device, the local education agency (LEA) must purchase the device and seek **reimbursement** from the LIF Committee. The following factors will be considered in making this determination:

- All other requirements for reimbursement must be met before a reimbursement will be approved.
- Only one iPad device per student every three years will be considered for reimbursement.
- The LEA must purchase a 2 year Apple Care plan AND an appropriate protective case for each device.
- Reimbursement for replacement of lost, broken or stolen iPads (not covered by Apple Care) will not be provided through LIF Funds.
- The LIF Committee will not reimburse the LEA for the cost of applications or software for the iPad.

Other restrictions:

- The device shall remain at the school site. Should an LEA choose to allow the device to be sent home, the LEA would be responsible for the purchase, maintenance and care of a replacement device. There will be **no** reimbursement from the Low Incidence Committee for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.
- The iTunes account for the device will be tied to an LEA email account.
- No applications, other than those purchased for educational use by the LEA will be placed on a device reimbursed with Low Incidence funding.
- Should the student move to an LEA outside of San Mateo County, the device must be forwarded to the San Mateo County SELPA for re-use.
Sections of Education Code related to LIF

- *Education Code (EC) Section (§) 56836.22* provides for funds to purchase **specialized books, materials, and equipment** as required under the individualized education program (IEP) for each pupil with low incidence disabilities as defined in §56026.5 ("hearing impairments, vision impairments, severe orthopedic impairments, or any combination thereof").

- "The **personnel who assess the pupil** shall prepare a written report, as appropriate, of the results of each assessment. The report shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following":

- "The need for specialized services, materials, and equipment for pupils with low incidence disabilities consistent with guidelines established pursuant to §56136."

- The assessment of a pupil, including the assessment of a pupil with a suspected low incidence disability, shall be conducted by persons knowledgeable of that disability. Special attention shall be given to the unique educational needs, including, but not limited to, skills and the need for specialized services, materials, and equipment consistent with guidelines established pursuant to §56136.

- Basic computers or other basic technology should not be purchased with low incidence funds unless it can be clearly demonstrated to fulfill a specialized function, format or adaptation directly related to the low incidence disability. General education or other special education funding should be used for purchasing such basic items.

- [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/documents/ligdlns1112.doc](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/documents/ligdlns1112.doc)