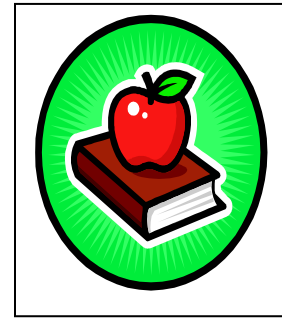




**East Side Union High School District
Special Services Department**

Parent Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 3, Apr. 3, 2006



A Message from the Superintendent

As your Superintendent and the Instructional Leader of ESUHSD, I am excited to report the many changes that are happening in the Special Education Department and am pleased to see the many changes that are happening for our students throughout the district. In the last **Parent Newsletter** we provided you with information about ESUHSD's status as a Program Improvement (PI) district, the goals of the LEAP Addendum Plan, and the corrective actions that we were undertaking. I am pleased to report that we are making significant progress and in the following articles I would like to share this information with you. Together we are making a difference!

*Bob Nunez
Superintendent*

Goal #1: Incorporate the use of scientific-based research strategies.

The focus of this goal is to use a variety of instructional methods in order to meet the needs of our diverse student population. Special Education completed the following activities in order to achieve this goal:

- Train staff on the use of the ACSA Handbook in order to write IEP goals and objectives.
- Train staff on how to fully include students with disabilities into mainstream classes.
- Train staff on how to differentiate classroom instruction to meet all students' needs.
- Train staff on how to implement classroom accommodation/modification strategies.

There is evidence to support that the training was effective and that many teachers are using scientific-based research strategies for all students in their classroom instruction.

Goal #2: Plan, pace and deliver rigorous and relevant core curriculum.

The focus of this goal is to have staff

demonstrate their knowledge of core curriculum, content standards and the effective delivery of content. Special Education completed the following activities in order to achieve this goal:

- Review the qualifications and credentials of all new teaching staff.
- Assign teaching staff to appropriate classes as authorized by their credentials.
- Monitor teaching staff who are enrolled in college/university internship programs.
- Develop and implement a recruitment plan for Special Education teachers.

There is evidence to support that the Special Education teaching staff are properly credentialed, are knowledgeable about the content standards, and are providing effective curriculum to our students.

All children are creative and talented. There is something special and unique in every one of them. Once I have discovered a child's strength, teaching the subject matter becomes easy.

***Kathryn McFarland
Washington Teacher of the Year***

Goal #3: Interpret and use data to inform instruction.

The focus of this goal is to use formative and summative assessments to guide instruction. Special Education participated in the following activities in order to achieve this goal:

- Train staff on how to interpret and use data to inform classroom instruction.
- Provide coaching and support in order to implement these strategies.
- Develop a set of common assessments to be used by all teachers.
- Provide teachers with collaboration time in order to analyze student work.

There is evidence to support that staff are using formative and summative assessments to guide instruction and that collaboration time is being used effectively in order to analyze student work.

Board of Trustees

J. Manuel Herrera, Craig Mann, Patricia Martinez-Roach, Lan Nguyen, George Shirakawa

Superintendent

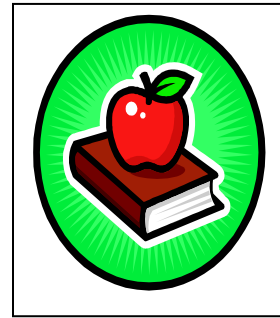
Bob Nunez



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Goal #4: Promote effective parental involvement.

The focus of this goal is to increase parent understanding and knowledge of school and district programs. Special Education completed the following activities in order to achieve this goal:

- Distribute parent newsletters in English, Spanish and Vietnamese (3 published).
- Conduct parent meetings and trainings targeting content standards and graduation.
- Use the schools' auto-dialer systems to alert parents to upcoming events.
- Use the schools' *parent connect/school loop* for increased parent access and information.

There is evidence to support that there is an increase in parent contacts with many opportunities to obtain additional information about our school and district programs. The SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) is a great source of information about additional training opportunities which parents may want to access.

South East SELPA
3434 Marten Avenue
San Jose, CA 95148

(408) 223-3771 (Telephone Number)
(408) 532-9311 (FAX Number)

Goal #5: Ensure successful implementation of the LEA Action Plan

The focus of this goal is to develop a system for the consistent implementation of the LEA Action Plan. Special Education completed the following activities in order to achieve this goal:

- Communicate the plan to school staff by the publication of *Staff Notes & News*.
- Train Special Education Department Chairpersons about the plan.
- Submit evidence on a regular basis to show the plan is being implemented.
- Attend quarterly meetings of the monitoring committee to review the evidence.

There is evidence to support that the LEA Action Plan is being implemented and that it is being monitored on a regular and consistent basis by Special Education staff. Look for a copy of the *Staff Notes & News* which is published on ESUHSD's website every two weeks.

If a student has self-esteem and believes in his inherent value and goodness as a human being, then he will learn. He will not allow himself to fail.

***Byron Kelim
Missouri Teacher of the Year***

For More Information

For more information about this and other important Special Education activities contact Joseph "Jay" Totter, the Director of Special Services at (408) 347-5180. We want to hear from you!

A Final Comment from the Director

In a previous *Parent Newsletter* I addressed the question "So what is the bottom-line for our students now that ESUHSD is a Program Improvement (PI) district?" I am please to announce that the LEAP Addendum Action Plan is being fully and faithfully implemented. These activities have translated into more affective classroom instruction, improved student achievement, and increased parental involvement. But our job is far from being done. We need to sustain the changes that we have made and continue to work in order to meet the needs of all of our students enrolled in the ESUHSD. Together we can make a difference!

*Joseph "Jay" Totter, PhD
Director of Special Services*

In order to keep ESUHSD staff, parents/guardians, and community members informed, the Special Services Department publishes the *Parent Newsletter* bi-annually and *Staff Notes & News* bi-monthly on the district's website.

Board of Trustees

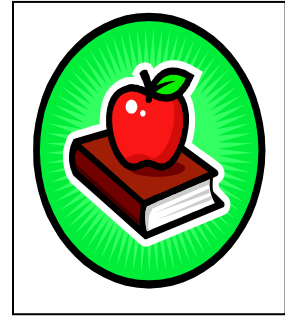
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