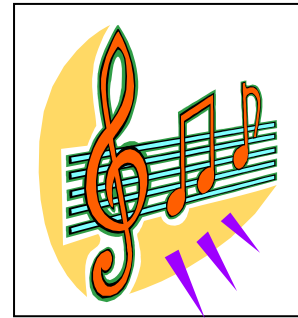




**East Side Union High School District
Special Services Department
Donna DeMartini, Director
Staff Notes & News**

Volume 4 Number 1, September 5, 2007



A Message from the Director

As the Director of Special Services for ESUHSD, I am pleased to welcome you back to another exciting school year filled with many challenges and opportunities. I am pleased to announce that we have added two Coordinators to our team, Veronica Boudreaux and Michael Luna. Tina Swanson will be working with Jim Cardoza as our new Behavior Specialist. We added a fourth Adapted PE teacher, Bill Schaeffer. Post Senior is growing and is housed altogether at Yerba Buena. Workability and TPP joined Post Senior as they will be working very closely to restructure our program this year.

Last year, we implemented a Parent Advisory Group. The goal of the group is to increase communication and support the needs of our students. We look forward to growing as a team. The first meeting will be held on Monday September 24, 2007. They will meet on the 4th Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Donna DeMartini

Director of Special Services

Assistive Technology

We are excited to announce that ESUHSD Staff members took the coursework and will be certified in Assistive Technology to provide support for our students. Our goal is to provide support through assistive technology to all of our students who are in need of such services. Staff members who received training are as follows: Leslie Bannerman, Veronica Boudreaux, Jim Cardoza, Danielle Cardenas, Adrienne Golden Stone and Janet Traje.

Section 504 Program Improvements Approved by OCR

U.S. Office for Civil Rights (OCR) approved a new 504 Manual in the Spring of 2007. ESUHSD will need to be trained in the new procedures district wide. This new manual is the result of compliance issues with the federal government. A number of steps were taken in the spring 2005 to begin

implementing the corrective actions required by OCR. To continue these corrective actions, all district school staff will receive the Section 504 training during September and October as part of the school's professional development activities. Be on the lookout for the 2nd edition of **Staff Notes & News** which is exclusively devoted to ESUHSD's Section 504 Program and which will provide you with valuable information about your role and responsibilities.

Special Education Classes Added as Our Student Population Grows

In response to the growing number of Special Education students in ESUHSD and the return of many of our students from other agencies, classes have been added to provide specialized instructional services. Two programs have been added to the Post Senior program, one autistic class has been added to STHS. MPHS and WCO have added classes for Emotionally Disturbed students.

How Well Are We Communicating?

Last year, Dr. Totter placed the following in the newsletter.

In real estate it's location, location, location. In education it's communication, communication, communication. The most important thing we can do with our colleagues in education is to keep the channels of communication open and operating. Keep in mind the big 5 "W" questions when we are communicating.

- **Who** needs to know the information?
- **What** do they need to know?
- **Why** do they need to know it?
- **When** do they need to know it?
- **Where** will it be used and for what purpose?

Home/Hospital (H/H) Teaching

ESUHSD provides Home/Hospital (H/H) Instruction to eligible students pursuant to

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Frank Biehl, Eddie Garcia, J. Manuel Herrera, Lan Nguyen, George Shirakawa.

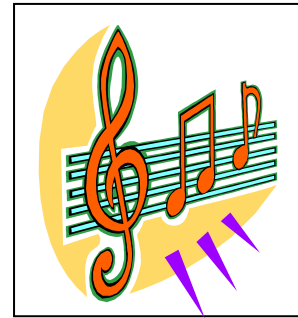
Superintendent Bob Nunez



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Board Policy #6173. The program coordination for Home/Hospital (H/H) Teaching is under the Special Services Department and requires their approval prior to any services being provided. The selection and assignment of Home/Hospital Teachers remains a school responsibility under the supervision of the Principal. Please contact your school Principal if you want to be considered for a position as a Home/Hospital Teacher. Teachers are limited to four students at one time.

Here are some interesting facts about the Home/Hospital (H/H) program.

- Students must require services on a temporary basis for 3 or more weeks.
- Students must be hospitalized or undergoing medical and/or psychological treatment.
- Students are required to have a written request from their physician, psychologist or psychiatrist.
- One (1) hour of H/H teaching equals one (1) day of instruction for apportionment.
- The number of instructional hours in a given week cannot exceed five (5) hours.
- The number of instructional hours in a given month cannot exceed the total number of instructional days in that month.
- Instructional hours may be given on Saturdays, but not on Sundays and/or holidays.

Ms. Deborah Sanchez is the District Office staff member who is responsible for the database and documentation required for the Home/Hospital (H/H) program. She can be contacted at (408) 347-5173.

Guiding Principles of IDEIA '04

Even with the changes in **IDEIA '04** the six guiding principles for Special Education remain unchanged.

- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Full Education Opportunity (Zero Reject)
- Child Find (Search and Serve)
- Procedural Safeguards (Parents Rights)
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Compliance Verification

We are pleased to announce that East Side Union High School District met all of the requirements necessary to satisfy the California Department of Education in the Compliance Review. Within six months CDE will return to review our IEPs. CDE was pleased that we are reviewing and correcting our own IEPs to assure compliance. They assured us that our staff has been provided with ample training and that we have taken measures to correct our areas of non compliance.

The district developed an action plan which will be presented to all stakeholders in August and September. From this plan, a Best Practices Guidelines Manual for Special Education will be developed.

Mainstream Training

I would like to give a special thank you to Robert Ibarra, Janet Gwananji and Kristin Sarbinger for developing a course to assist general education teachers with the mainstreaming of Special Education students. The class will be offered at all schools in the Fall.

Training

New Special Education Teachers Training is scheduled September 27, Oct 1 and Oct 4 in the Board Room. New teachers should plan to attend all three trainings.

Returning teachers are scheduled for Session 1 Oct 9, 11 and Session 2 Oct 15, 25. Please select one training in Session 1 and one date in Session 2. All training will take place from 4-7 p.m. in the Board Room

You are invited to submit information about our students, staff and services which are noteworthy of publication to Donna DeMartini, Director of Special Services.

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Superintendent Bob Nunez