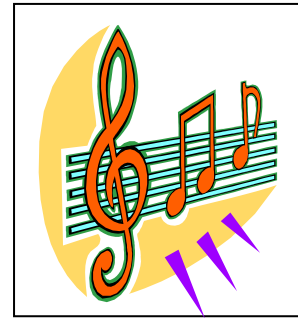




*East Side Union High School District
Special Services Department*

Staff Notes & News

Volume 2, Number 7, Nov. 18, 2005



A Message from the Director

In real estate it's location, location, location. In education it's communication, communication, communication. The most important thing we can do with our parents/guardians is to keep the channels of communication open and operating. This is especially important when dealing with issues concerning students receiving Special Education services because they are usually of such complexity. In order to keep our parents/guardians informed of the progress we are making in Special Education, ESUHSD will be publishing the **Parent Newsletter** three (3) times each year in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Look for the first edition of this publication on December 5, 2005. We will continue to publish **Staff Notes & News** every two weeks on the district's website. Suggestions on how to improve the newsletters are welcome. We want to hear from you.

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

IEP Update

The initial assessment and IEP meeting to consider the results of an evaluation must now be held within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of parent/guardian consent for the assessment, not counting days between the student's regular school sessions, terms, or days of school vacation in excess of five (5) school days unless the parent/guardian agrees to an extension in writing. A reassessment shall occur not more frequently than once a year unless both the parent/guardian and the LEA agree in writing. The previous timeline for initial assessment was fifty (50) calendar days.

AB 1662 Brings Conformity to Special Education in California

With the passage of IDEIA '04 and the changes therein contained, many states including California found themselves out of conformity with the federal law but required to continue following their state education code regulations. The passage of AB 1662 now brings California into conformity with many of the federal requirements and has aligned California's special education practices with that of the federal law. Staff are reminded to carefully review any changes that they are making to ensure that they are included in AB 1662 because not all of the federal law changes were covered by this California law.

A teacher must present himself to the students as a professional who accepts hard work and then is able to demonstrate the rewards attainable when hard work is met head on.

*John Keon
Pasco County, Florida, Teacher of the Year*

School Leadership Teams Attend Special Education Training

The ESUHSD school leadership teams (Principals and Associate Principals) attended a three-hour Special Education training on November 17. The training was presented by Mr. Benjamin Nieberg, ESUHSD's Special Education attorney. The topic was the Six Guiding Principles of Special Education and included the following topics.

- Review of the Six Guiding Principles.
- Characteristics of compliant programs.
- Review of ESUHSD compliance data.
- Review of Program Improvement activities.

A copy of the training materials have been made available to each school and is available by contacting a member of your school leadership team. Additional information is available through the Special Services Office at the District Office.

Board of Trustees

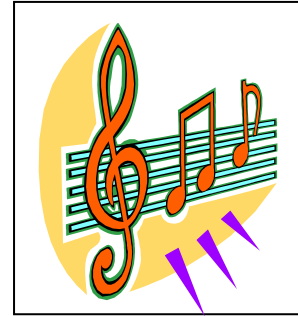
**J. Manuel Herrera, Craig Mann, Patricia Martinez-Roach, Lan Nguyen, George Shirakawa
Interim Superintendent
Bob Nunez**



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SELPA News

The South East Consortium for Special Education is an administrative unit which assists and supports in the delivery of Special Education services for the ESUHSD, Santa Clara COE, 3 unified school districts and our 8 elementary "feeder" districts. The Special Education Directors from all of the districts meet on a monthly basis as we share information, coordinate services and collaborate on a number of important activities.

For further information about the SELPA you can contact:

James Russell, SELPA Director
3434 Marten Avenue
San Jose, CA 95148

Telephone: (408) 223-3771
FAX: (408) 532-9311
E-Mail: jrussell@mountpleasant.k12.ca.us

Enrollment of Students Receiving Special Education Services

The enrollment of a student who is receiving Special Education services requires the following documents be presented to the high school registrar:

- Proof of residency within the district
- Proof of immunizations
- Copy of the most recent signed IEP

I am asked many times why there is a requirement to have the most recent signed IEP presented to the high school registrar before the student can be enrolled in the ESUHSD. The answer is fairly straight forward. ESUHSD, like all other districts, is required to enroll the student in a placement and with the approved services outlined in the student's most recent signed IEP. These decisions can only be made once there has been a review of the student's IEP.

I am also asked many times what should be done if the student's IEP has lapsed, that is the IEP has not been updated by the annual due date. Federal law requires that the student's IEP be reviewed and updated at least annually by the annual due date listed on the document. Frequently, ESUHSD receives a student from another district with an IEP which is overdue. Since the former district is no longer responsible for the student, ESUHSD accepts the most recent signed IEP and then updates the overdue IEP as soon as reasonably possible. ESUHSD, in turn, attempts to send our students to other districts with completed IEPs.

We need to design school programs to prepare children to be lifelong learners. I encourage them to explore and to be flexible.

***Cynthia Kalkwarf
Missouri Teacher of the Year***

Confidential Student Records

ESUHSD is fortunate to have Ms. Catherine Lopez as our Special Services Clerk Typist assigned to maintain the confidential files for all of our Special Education students. She is responsible for maintain of over 3,000 confidential student files as well as the monitoring of the access to these files. ESUHSD, like all other districts, is required to maintain a posted list of district employees who can have access to these confidential files and to ensure that only these employees are allowed such access. Ms. Lopez I also responsible for requesting confidential files from other districts as well as sending them our confidential files when a student transfers to another district. All access to confidential student files is determined on a "need to know" basis.

You are invited to submit information about our students, staff and services which are noteworthy of publication to Joseph "Jay" Totter, Director of Special Services.

Board of Trustees

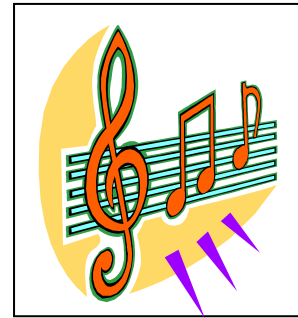
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