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SELPA/Charter SELPA

EDCOE SELPA Growth Committee Report/Recommendations for 2017-18

The EDCOE SELPA Growth Committee met on November 10, 2016. In attendance were: Pat Atkins (Pollock Pines School District), Pam Bartlett (El Dorado High School District), Donna Bazett (Placerville School District), Amy Andersen (EDCOE Special Services), Tamara Clay (SELPA).

The meeting opened with a review of the 2015 Growth Committee Summary. Amy Andersen shared several reconfigurations made by Special Services to better accommodate students and allow for greater programmatic flexibility. These changes included moving the Sutter's Mill LEAD classroom to Silva Valley. Amy explained that this move has allowed the program to serve a broader grade level band. Amy shared that changing the focus of the Jackson Elementary classroom from Orthopedically Impaired to Multiple Abilities has broadened the number of students who can benefit from placement there. This year, Special Services has also formed a preschool assessment team. The team has already conducted over 40 assessments and numbers may increase in the next few years.

The committee discussed options for serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing in the SELPA. Currently, the SELPA has one itinerant DHH teacher who provides direct and/or consultative services to over 50 students. The regional program also has one vacant bilingual aide position and found it necessary to contract with an additional part-time DHH teacher to meet the needs of students SELPA-wide. Last year, the SELPA facilitated a conversation with a small group of superintendents to explore ways to increase supports to this population of students, recognizing that the SELPA does not currently have enough students to justify a DHH classroom. Earlier this year, the Legislative Analysts' Office released a report recognizing that many rural SELPAs have DHH students but not "critical mass" to create a DHH classroom. The report recommends several changes, including seed grants that would allow SELPAs to partner with neighboring SELPAs to create DHH programs that serve an entire region. Tamara Clay will continue to monitor whether the LAO recommendations result in any policy or budget changes at the state level. Additionally, the SELPA and Special Services will continue to monitor DHH numbers.

The committee reviewed EDCOE Regional Classroom enrollment from the 2013/14 school year through the current school year. While the Gold Oak classroom has historically had an average of 9-10 students, in the current year the classroom is averaging 13 students. The El Dorado High School regional classroom is experiencing a similar trend with 17 students enrolled. The team closely examined enrollment in all of the high school classrooms and noted that enrollment in these programs ranges from average to high average. Amy shared that Special Services is not putting forward a growth request at this time, but the

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Committee will continue to monitor enrollment in these programs to determine if any growth request or reconfiguration is needed in the future. Pam Bartlett explained that the El Dorado High School District is experiencing high enrollment numbers in some of their ED classrooms. While these are regional programs, they are staffed and operated by the high school district. Pam shared that the district is currently looking at possible reconfigurations to balance out enrollment across the ED classrooms. Amy also shared that Special Services and the High School District will be working together to explore the possibility of shifting students, as appropriate, from the Winnie Wakeley SMI program to county classrooms on high school district campuses. This would allow for more inclusion opportunities for those students.

At this time, the SELPA Growth Committee is not making any growth requests.

The SELPA and Special Services will continue to monitor regional program data and bring any issues to Growth Committee or Executive Committee as appropriate.