Education & Disability Clinic

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Introduction

- Resources you’ll use in the clinic are different from those used in LWR
  - Agency/government websites
  - Special Ed Connection
- Librarians are available to help you with your clinic research
Administrative Law

• Administrative law makes up a huge portion of “the law”
  • Executive Orders
  • Regulations
  • Agency Decisions
Regulations

• Regulations are “enabled” by statutes
  • Legislature authorizes an administrative agency to promulgate regulations that provide more detail than the statute
  • You need to research both the statute and the regulation
Welcome to the Office of Administrative Law

The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) ensures that agency regulations are clear, necessary, legally valid, and available to the public. OAL is responsible for reviewing administrative regulations proposed by over 200 state agencies for compliance with the standards set forth in California's Administrative Procedure Act (APA), for transmitting these regulations to the Secretary of State and for publishing regulations in the California Code of Regulations.

Learn More About OAL
Frequently Asked Questions
Discover U.S. Government Information

Search
Advanced
Citation

What are you searching for?

A to Z
Browse documents by alphabetical order

Category
Browse documents in specific collections

Date
Browse documents within a timeframe or date range

Committee
Browse documents by the issuing committee

Author
View documents by government authors
Select a category below to view document collections by type.

Bills and Statutes
Budget and Presidential Materials
Congressional Committee Materials
Congressional Rules and Procedures
Directories of Organizations and Officials
Executive Agency Publications
Independent Establishments and Government Corporations
Judicial Publications
Legislative Agency Publications
Proceedings of Congress and General Congressional Publications
Regulatory Information

Regulatory Information

CFR Index and Finding Aids
CFR Parts Affected from the Federal Register
Code of Federal Regulations
Federal Register
Federal Register Index
List of CFR Sections Affected
Privacy Act Issuances
Unified Agenda
Regulations on Westlaw and Lexis
Agency Decisions

- Many agencies are empowered to adjudicate disputes
- How these are published, if they are published, and what legal effect they have varies widely from agency to agency
- Begin research at the agency’s website
Search Special Education Decisions and Orders

Any person can use the search system to look up decisions and orders for SpecialEducation cases handled by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH).

The search system provided herein offers a simple word search with no options for further filtering or refinement of the search. Recognizing that our community would be better served with a more advanced search capability OAH is actively working on an upgrade to the search capability available through our website to allow more responsive information retrieval. We appreciate your patience and welcome any comments or requests for additional features.

Pending completion of this upgrade, if you are experiencing issues with the Decision Search function, please try viewing the Special Education Division’s Decisions using Box.com. Access Box.com by using the following link Decision Box or by copying and pasting the following URL into your browser: https://dgscloud.box.com/s/05xrfqaa08743v0kc30pmvzphsys2i. From Box.com, a copy of the entire database can be downloaded or with the use of a Box.com account (which can be created for free) the Box.com search feature can be used, which may yield more accurate search results.

LIST SERVE

OAH maintains a list called ListServe which allows OAH to send to interested people copies of our decisions when they are issued, as well as the occasional announcement. If you wish to be added to this list please navigate to the left hand side of this page and press the blue quick link button entitled, "Add to ListServe" located in the section entitled "To Receive Copies of Decisions Via Email ".

SEARCHING SPECIAL EDUCATION ORDERS

Some Special Education Orders are available through our search feature. OAH will only be posting a limited number of orders issued. As OAH issues a large number of orders on an ongoing basis
SEARCHING SPECIAL EDUCATION ORDERS

Some Special Education Orders will soon be available through our search feature. OAH will only be posting a limited number of orders issued. As OAH issues a large number of orders on an ongoing basis, most of which are extremely similar, posting all orders provides no additional benefit. Additionally, if OAH posted all orders issued, the volume would present a barrier to learning about the types of orders issued.

The orders posted will be based on the type of order, the relief granted such as "request denied" or "request granted," and the relationship of the order to parties' access to due process of law.

SEARCHING SPECIAL EDUCATION DECISIONS

Decisions are accessible through the quick link button to the right.

Special Education decisions issued from 1993 through June 30, 2005, are maintained by California Department of Education. Go to decisions issued 1993 to July 1, 2005 to view these decisions.

General instructions on how to search for decisions or order relevant to a particular issue are provided below.

Instructions:

1. Click on either the Decision button provided on the left hand side of this screen.

2. In the Search field near the top of the page, enter the word or phrase that is an essential part of the subject you are seeking. For example, if you would like decisions or orders that discuss issues related to requests for “Stay Put” relief, type “Stay Put” in this field.
Decisions

For information and instructions regarding decision search, see the Information Page.

If experiencing issues with the Decision Search function, access Education Division's Decisions using Box.com: https://dgscloud.box.com/s/05yxfla08743v0kic30pmv2822x7n this link. (Tips on searching the entire database can be downloaded or with the use of the Box.com search feature can be created for free) the Box.com search feature can be used to find accurate search results.

1. Did San Bernardino deny Student a free appropriate public education from July 7, 2015 to the date the complaint was filed by failing to:
   a) Provide Student with a one-to-one assistant after parental request;
   b) Develop a behavior intervention plan;
   c) Provide Student with an appropriate amount of speech and language services to meet his unique needs?

2. Did San Bernardino deprive Student’s parents of the ability to participate in the educational decision-making process by failing to provide copies of services records relating to speech and language services offered in Student’s individualized education plan?

SUMMARY OF DECISION

Student met his burden on Issue 1(c). The evidence established that San Bernardino did not provide Student with an appropriate amount of speech therapy services. At hearing, Special Education Director Mr. Dominguez admitted Student should have received more speech therapy sessions and he was entitled to make up missed sessions. San Bernardino eventually gave Parents the speech therapist’s service logs which reflected missing weeks of services, without explaining to Parents that a discrepancy existed in Student’s initial IEP regarding the amount of speech therapy he was entitled to receive. However, Student did not prove he had communication needs that required more speech therapy services during the regular school year than those San Bernardino offered in his July 7, 2015 initial IEP.

Student also met his burden on Issue 2. San Bernardino deprived Parents the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the development of the October 28, 2015 IEP meeting regarding speech services. Parents asked for but did not receive service logs from a private college as a remedy for the denial of FAPE.
Tips for Searching CA Special Ed Decisions on CA.gov

• Search feature is rudimentary – keep keyword search broad, no Boolean searching (OAH is currently upgrading its search capability)

• Alternative 1: Search OAH’s database of special education decisions in PDF on Box.com and use Box’s search

• Alternative 2: Receive future special education decisions in your email by emailing a request to SEListServ@dgs.ca.gov and use Google’s search

• OAH’s database covers June 2005-present

• Special Education Decisions issued from 1993 through June 30, 2005, are maintained by California Department of Education

• Consider searching all similar decisions by the judge in your case
Orders

This section contains rulings on procedural or dispositive motions that the Special Education Division deems to be of sufficient importance to be of assistance to members of the public appearing before the Agency on special education matters. Each section provides a sample of rulings on the type of motion identified.

Amend Complaints

The party that filed a Request for Due Process (often called a "complaint") may add more claims or add more facts to the original complaint. If a party wants to include more claims or facts in the complaint, they must send OAH a "Motion to Amend the Complaint." This section contains a sample of how some judges have ruled on motions to amend complaints.

Consolidate Matters

Any party may make a motion to consolidate two or more cases when the cases involve the same parties and facts. "Consolidate" means to combine the cases so that there is only one hearing. This section contains a sample of how some judges have ruled on motions to consolidate different cases.
Tips for Searching
CA Special Ed. Orders

• Remember this database provides just a sample of representative rulings, organized by type of procedural or substantive motion
• Best approach is to browse based on your procedural or substantive issue
• Search bar only searches type of motion/issue, not the facts of the case
• Sample orders are available in translation in several languages
CALIFORNIA DEP’T OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION

HTTP://WWW.CDE.CA.GOV/SP/SE/
Special Education

Information and resources to serve the unique needs of persons with disabilities so that each person will meet or exceed high school and nonacademic skills.

Administration & Support
Activities of special education advisory groups and other related information.

Announcements & Current Issues
Current and upcoming events, time-sensitive issues, and hot topics.

Common Core Resources for Special Education
Resources and guidelines on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for the Special Education Community.

Data Collection & Reporting
Searchable databases and software for reporting and retrieving special education related information.

Equal Opportunity & Access
Discloses the practices of the California Department of Education to ensure equal, fair, and meaningful access to its employment and program services.

Family Involvement & Partnerships
Resources and support for parents, guardians, and families of children with disabilities.

Laws, Regulations, & Policies
Federal and state legislation, laws, regulations, policies, legal advisories, and guidance.

Quality Assurance Process
Resources to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities while ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.

Secondary Transition Planning
Resources and guidelines to assist youth with disabilities as they transition from school to adult life, including education and training, employment and independent living.
Laws, Regulations, & Policies
Federal and state legislation, laws, regulations, policies, legal advisories, and guidance.

State

Laws
- California Special Education Reference (CASER) *(Posted 22-Jan-2015)*
  A word-searchable database of special education-related state and federal statutes and regulations, federal guidance documents, and editions of the Federal Register.

Policy
- Size And Scope *(Updated 05-Oct-2021)*
  Special Education Local Plan Area size and scope standards as adopted by the State Board of Education at the November 17-18, 1983 meeting pursuant to California Education Code Section 56100(c).

Guidance
- Official Letters from the California Department of Education, Special Education Division, State Director of Special Education *(Updated 07-Mar-2023)*
  Provides program clarification on procedural and/or implementation issues.

- Special Education Transportation Guidelines *(Updated 26-Dec-2018)*
  Guidelines for use by Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams when determining required transportation services.
California Department of Education, Special Education Division Web page

http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/

The purpose of the Special Education Reference™ is to provide accurate and trustworthy information on special education statutory and compliance information as well as curriculum, instruction and assessment policy. The Special Education Reference™ is available for use with the understanding that MicroScribe Publishing, Inc. is not a provider of legal advice. Appropriate legal services should be secured if legal advice is needed.

California Special Education Reference
of those sections to be a surrogate parent.

(24) Parent organization

The term "parent organization" has the meaning given the term in section 1471(g) of this title.

(25) Parent training and information center

The term "parent training and information center" means a center assisted under section 1471 or 1472 of this title.

(26) Related services

(A) In general

The term "related services" means transportation, and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services (including speech-language pathology and audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including therapeutic recreation, social work services, school nurse services designed to enable a child with a disability to receive a free appropriate public education as described in the individualized education program of the child, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services, except that such medical services shall be for diagnostic and evaluation purposes only) as may be required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes the early identification and assessment of disabling conditions in children.

(B) Exception

The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.

(27) Secondary school

The term "secondary school" means a nonprofit institutional day or residential school, including a public secondary charter school, that provides secondary education, as determined under State law, except that it
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Message from Executive Director

Dr. Niecy Watkins

I would like to welcome you to the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). I am glad that your family is going to be part of our wonderful school community at SDUSD.

I have worked in education for the past 20 years as a resource assistant in special education, a special education teacher, vice principal, university supervisor for credential teaching program, program manager in special education, and principal. I firmly believes that together we can create successful and positive academic and social/emotional outcomes for all students through strong student-centered collaborative partnerships, with staff, students, families, and community members.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angelia "Niecy" Watkins
awatkins@sandi.net

Contact Us
619-725-7700
CALIFORNIA DEP’T OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

HTTP://WWW.DDS.CA.GOV/
DDS oversees the coordination and delivery of services for Californians with developmental disabilities through a statewide network of 21 community-based, non-profit agencies known as regional centers. Regional centers provide assessments, determine eligibility for services, and offer case management services. Regional centers also develop, purchase, and coordinate the services in each person's Individual Program Plan.
Consumers

Who are "Consumers?"

DDS serves more than 330,000 individuals, also known as consumers, who have developmental disabilities including cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, Down syndrome, autism, epilepsy and related conditions. The programs, services and resources here are designed to empower consumers who have developmental disabilities and help guide the families, advocates and professionals who help them live their best lives.
# Appeals & Complaints

The state’s developmental services community is best served by an open exchange of information and opinions, and DDS is committed to resolving problems and concerns when they occur. Below are the multiple options consumers, family members, vendors and providers have for filing appeals and complaints.

## Consumers/Families

**Consumer Rights Complaint Process**
This process is a mechanism to be used when an individual consumer, or any representative acting on behalf of a consumer, believes that any right has been wrongly or unfairly denied by a regional center, developmental center, or a service provider. This process is not to be used by consumers to resolve disputes about eligibility, or the nature, scope, or amount of services.

[View More Details](#)

**Fair Hearing**
This process is for resolving disputes with a regional or developmental center about eligibility or the nature, scope, or amount of services and supports. This process is not to be used by consumers to resolve issues related to denials of rights

[View More Details](#)

## Vendors/Providers

**Family Home Agency Appeals**
The Family Home Agency (FHA) appeal process can be used by a FHA applicant or vendor to appeal the following regional center actions: denial or termination of FHA vendorization; movement of a consumer from a family home approved by a vendored FHA and/or revocation of a family home’s Certificate of Approval.
The appeal process is defined in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations Section 56096 and 56097. The FHA must appeal in writing to the DDS Director within 30 days after receiving notice from the regional center of its intended action.

**Vendorization Appeals**
This process can be used to appeal a denial of vendorization application, termination of vendorization, or failure of a regional center to comply with regulations.

[View More Details](#)

## Contact Information

Appeals, Complaints & Projects Section
Department of Developmental Services
1600 9th Street, Room 340 (MS 3-12)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Voice: (916) 651-6309
Fax: (916) 654-3641

Department of Developmental Services
Early Start and Health Services Section
1600 9th Street, Room 320 (MS 3-11)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 654 - 2773
Email: earlystart@.dds.ca.gov

**Whistleblower Complaints**

Citizen Comments and Complaints
(English | Spanish)

Language Access Complaint Process
Welcome to the U.S. Department of Education’s Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) website, which brings together IDEA information and resources from the Department and our grantees.

Whether you are a student, parent, educator, service provider, or grantee, you are here because you care about children with disabilities and their families and want to find information and explore resources on infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

Thank you for visiting the IDEA website. If you have feedback regarding the site, please let us know on our blog.

https://sites.ed.gov/idea/
OSEP Policy Letter 22-06 to Jacquelyn Flanigan (November 16, 2022)

November 16, 2022

Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan
Associate Superintendent
Diocese of Orlando – Office of Catholic Schools
Post Office Box 1800
Orlando, Florida 32802-1800

Dear Dr. Flanigan:

Thank you for your July 12, 2022, email inquiry to the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office of Non-Public Education (ONPE). Your inquiry was referred to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), a component of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and in developing a response, OSEP conferred with ONPE to fully understand the inquiry.

In your initial email, you raised three questions and, based on follow-up conversations, we understand that you would like a written response to two of your three questions. First, you ask whether a child who has been identified as a child with a disability under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), but for whom the parent has rejected the offer of a free appropriate public education, must be counted when calculating the proportionate share of IDEA Part B funds that a local educational agency (LEA) is required to spend on the provision of equitable services to parentally-placed private school children with disabilities enrolled in private schools in the LEA. Second, you ask about a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the School Board of Brevard County, Brevard County Public Schools (BCPS), an LEA in Florida, is requiring schools in the Diocese of Orlando to sign in order for BCPS to provide equitable services under Part B of the IDEA to parentally-placed private school children with disabilities. We interpret your second question to be whether it is consistent with IDEA for BCPS to require a private school to enter into an MOU as a condition of the LEA providing equitable services for parentally-placed private school children with disabilities enrolled at that school.

https://sites.ed.gov/idea/policy-guidance/
Probate Court

The Probate Division manages decedents' estates, trusts, guardianship of minors, and conservatorship of adults who are unable to provide for their personal needs or manage their financial resources.

- Wills, Estates & Trusts
  Information on the court-supervised process for identifying and gathering a decedent's assets; paying taxes, debts, and expenses; and distributing the balance to beneficiaries

- Guardianship
  Information on the court proceeding in which someone who is not the parent can be given custody of a child under the age of 18 or the power to manage the child's income, money, or other property until the child turns 18

- Conservatorship
  Information on the court proceeding in which a family member, friend or other responsible person (conservator) can be appointed to care for another adult (conservatee) who cannot care for themselves and/or their finances
Few Education Law Treatises on Westlaw and Lexis

None on Westlaw

Only a few on Lexis
**Secondary Sources and Practice Guides**

Use these resources to get an overview of special education law and specific legal issues your clients may have. Some contain detailed step-by-step guidance and sample letters for parents and attorneys.

   - Call Number: Copley Internet - KF4209.3 .C64 2009eb
   - An electronic book downloadable by USD users. Includes an appendix with sample letters that parents may use when requesting due process hearings, records, and evaluations, or when placing a child unilaterally into a private school.

2. **Special Ed Connection**
   - Access to SpecialEdConnection.com is strictly limited to subscribers authorized by LRP Publications, Inc. with valid access credentials and subject to the terms of such subscriber's license agreement.

3. **Special Education Law by Laura F. Rothstein, Scott F. Johnson**
   - Call Number: LRC Reading Room KF4210 .R68 2014
   - ISBN: 9781452241090
   - Publication Date: 2013

4. **Special Education Law and Litigation Treatise**
   - Call Number: LRC Clinic KF4210 .W4 2017
   - Analyzes and defines key elements of special education law in language appropriate for both lawyers and non-lawyers. Available for use only in the legal clinic.

5. **Special Education Law Case Studies by David F. Bateman**
   - Call Number: KF4208.3 .B374 2019
   - ISBN: 9781475837674
   - Publication Date: 2015-01-12
   - Tremendous changes have occurred over the past decade in the provision of services to students with disabilities. Federal mandates continue to define requirements for a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment. Additionally, there has been an increase in the number of lawsuits filed against school districts regarding the provision of educational services for students with disabilities. Case studies are a helpful way to understand these difficult issues. The case studies presented here are actual students eligible for special education and related services. The case studies are represented not to tell districts and parents that this is the only way questions about special education law can be answered, but to provide likely answers along with commentary for analysis. The cases were developed to help education leaders and supervisors survive the pressures of working with students with disabilities while working to provide quality education.
Know how to pick them: Participants in student placement decisions

The principal. The special education teacher. The school nurse. A private school representative. Consider how the makeup of the placement team may differ from the IEP team. (July 7) NEW!

When drafting BIPs, seek input of students with intellectual disabilities to boost engagement, self-determination

Work to incorporate the input of students who have intellectual disabilities into the development and implementation of their behavioral interventions. (July 6)

SmartStart: FERPA -- Interface with HIPAA

Discover how FERPA and HIPAA may intersect and learn the differences in their coverage. (July 6)

Checklist for Composing Comprehensive BIP

SAMPLE TOOL: Guide teams in making behavior intervention plans with this list of best practices. (July 5)

Don't short shift students with temporary disability

Districts should consider the duration and extent to which a student's temporary impairment limits a major life activity when determining Section 504 eligibility. (July 5)

What's UDL?

ALPHABET SOUP: Test your teams’ knowledge. (July 5)

Mitigate delay of IEP services for special education students in military families

As military families who have students with disabilities move into your district, consider taking a few initiatives to help smooth their transition. (June 30)

Take time to map out 504 process when parents share dyslexia diagnosis, request 504 plan

If a parent comes in with a diagnosis of dyslexia, don’t just dismiss it. Use it as a child find trigger that a student may be eligible for services under Section 504. (June 30)
Special Ed Connection

• California-specific resources
• “Smart Starts”
• IDELR Topical Index search
• Advanced Search
• Interactive Search

**Task:** Help a parent request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) for their child. What is an IEE and under what circumstances does a school district need to pay for the IEE?
Slides available on LRC website

https://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/research-trainings/clinics.php
Questions?

Liz Parker
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lrcrefer@sandiego.edu
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www.sandiego.edu/law/library