

**SELPA FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Standing Committee of the Consortium**

**September 15, 2025**  
**3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**SELPA Conference Room**  
**3570 Rancho Road, Ste. 9; Redding, CA 96002**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order at 3:00 pm**

Christian Patz, SELPA Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

SELPA Finance Advisory Council members roll call:

- Jennifer Bickley, Proxy for David Flores, Shasta UHSD - Region1 Present
- Brandt Shriner, Proxy for Jennifer Parks, Anderson UHSD – Region 2 Present
- Robert Fellingner, Redding ESD – Region 3 Present
- Deborah Williams, Enterprise ESD – Region 4 Present
- Cathleen Serna, Columbia ESD – Region 5 Present
- Lyndsey Gilstrap, SCOE – Region 6 Present
- Danniell Hampton, Fall River JUSD – Region 7 Present

Others present:

- Christian Patz, SELPA
- Hilary Schwartz, SELPA
- Beth Roberts, Gateway USD

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**ACTION:** Robert Fellingner motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Cathleen Serna seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0-0-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

**3. Public Forum / Hearing of Person’s Wishing to Address the Finance Advisory Council**

Discussion: None.

**4. Consent Items –** *(These action items are of a routine nature or items for which no discussion is anticipated, and are acted upon by a single vote. Members may request that any item be removed and given individual consideration.)*

4a. Approval of Minutes for May 19, 2025

*NOTE: No meeting held June 16, 2025*

Discussion: Corrections to Minutes should include David Flores instead of Robert Fellingner, as Robert was represented by Jacqueline Hanger at the May 19, 2025 meeting. Corrections to be made in item 2 Action, item 4 Action and item 9 Action. Item 10 should reflect 2025-26.

**ACTION:** Cathleen Serna motioned to approve the Consent Item including the discussed revisions and as otherwise presented. Jennifer Bickley seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

## 5. SELPA Director's Report

### 5a. RTC Counts Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the SELPA averages 1.5 students per year placed in RTC, but we currently have 4 in placements - two in California, one in New York, and one in Kansas. Full accountings will be provided to members. SELPA receives approximately \$1.2m for OOH with approximately \$2m in reserves. New York was the best fit for the student's age and needs, with an expanded wing for students having more extensive needs with a step-down program in place.

### 5b. State SELPA update

Discussion: Dr. Patz indicated the State SELPA Administrators discussed concerns over federal freezing of grants, though they don't apply to SELPA, and no federal cuts have been proposed for IDEA funds. The state budget passed and was signed, although Dr. Patz stated AB602 and COLA may be interesting next year.

## 6. Fiscal Update – Discussion

### 6a. Budget vs. Actual 2025-26

### 6b. Budget vs. Actual EOY 2024-25

### 6c. Federal Mental Health Funds (ERMHS)

Discussion: Hilary Schwartz, SELPA Accountant, reminded members that ERMHS GANS are the district's responsibility beginning this year and urged all to watch for them. Resource Allocations were emailed separately to members. Discussion continued regarding late receipt of Resource Allocations shortens district consideration time. Ms. Gilstrap apologized for the late distribution this year and emphasized SCOE's future goal of August 15<sup>th</sup> for distribution to districts.

## 7. SELPA Policies - Discussion / ACTION

### 7a. Assistive Technology Guidelines and Procedures

### 7b. Assistive Technology Appendices

### 7c. IEE Policy – Cost Containment

### 7d. Non-Public Schools and Agencies - update language

### 7e. Determining Fiscal Responsibility for Transition-To-High-School Students Policy

### 7f. Determining Fiscal Responsibility for Nonpublic School Placements Policy

### 7g. SELPA Role in Student Records

### 7h. Behavioral Intervention, Seclusion, and Restraint Policy

### 7i. Positive Behavioral Intervention Policy & Procedures

Discussion: Dr. Patz reminded members these policies were provided for early review and consideration. The only significant change was the **IEE cost containment process**, as SELPA now conducts an annual provider survey, including nearby counties like Butte and Sacramento, to determine reasonable costs based on available providers, not just averages. Reviews occur each September. Some service costs, such as APE, have risen due to limited local providers. Members reviewed the updates and recommended approval of all policies as revised except items 7e and 7f concerning extended school year (ESY).

Discussion continued regarding items 7e and 7f, and if ADA should be claimed for students in ESY for current or subsequent year. Several variables cause confusion for the collection of ADA.

**ACTION:** Robert Fellingner motioned to approve the revisions as proposed for policies 7a-7d and 7g-7i, and change the date to June 30<sup>th</sup> for policies 7e and 7f. Deborah Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-1-1-0, Brandt Shriner opposes, Jennifer Bickley abstains, no absentees.

## **8. Preschool Subsidy – Update / Discussion**

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the current **Preschool/TK subsidy**, which provides a **flat \$4,000 per unduplicated preschool count**, and reviewed 2024–25 projections. Last year’s budget planned for 225 students but counted 301, with this year’s early estimates showing a current count of 425. Members noted that counting preschoolers remains complicated since TK and kindergarten students may also fall within the 3–5 age range. Discussion centered on whether to continue including TK students in the count now that TK receives both ADA and add-on funding, when the count should occur (currently at year-end, possibly shifting to Fall 1), and how COLA adjustments apply. Funding implications were reviewed—removing TK would lower allocations from about \$2.4 million to \$1.8 million, while keeping TK maintains higher funding levels under AB602. Some districts rely on this subsidy to offset the cost of preschool programs. Dr. Patz will leave as is unless member recommend changes. Members will discuss the issue further with their superintendents and CBOs and revisit the item at the next meeting.

No action was taken.

## **9. 2025-28 MTU Interagency Agreement – Discussion / ACTION**

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the new agreement has been vetted by the State SELPA Administrators and attorneys. The State SELPA wants to change all contract responsibilities to Health & Human Services but no one will make the move. No significant changes - they are all things medical, the SELPA is all things IEP.

**ACTION:** Robert Fellingner motioned to approve the 2025-28 MTU Interagency Agreement as presented. Jennifer Bickley seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0-0-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

## **10. SIRUS – Update / Discussion**

Discussion: Dr. Patz updated members of a potential transition from **SEIS to SIRUS** for special education data management. SIRUS offers significant back-end improvements, including color-coded compliance checks, automatic uploads to CalPADS even when a single file has errors, and a system that prevents incomplete IEPs from being finalized. It also allows providers to directly complete forms, reducing cleanup work for data teams. Unlike SEIS, SIRUS includes e-signature and SST/504 tools at no additional cost and features a built-in “goal wizard,” which could help offset the loss of GoalBook funding after this year. A demonstration was provided to data managers, with most participants indicating interest, and updated pricing is pending.

SIRUS reportedly integrates well with Aeries and PowerSchool (though TOMS remains an issue) and is currently used successfully in counties such as Santa Clara, Kern, and Placer. CP will share references from other districts that have made the switch. Training opportunities are planned through fall, with possible adoption following ESY if feedback remains positive. Anderson High’s first training is scheduled for February. Members noted that while the change may initially add work for staff, the system’s automation and accuracy should ultimately reduce errors

and improve compliance. Overall response from data managers and special education teams was strongly favorable, and the topic will return to the PAC, FAC, and the Governing Board in December for potential approval.

**11. Future Agenda Items**

11a. Budget

11b. State of SELPA – CAC, Low Incidence Services, Workability

Discussion: Preschool Subsidy was added as a topic of future discussion.

**12. Next meeting:**

- Next meeting: December 8, 2025; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, SELPA Conference Room

**13. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm