

ERICs Classrooms Policy

The SELPA subsidizes schools that host an Educationally Related Intensive Counseling Support class. The subsidy amount is determined each year by the Governance Committee during the budget process. The majority of funding comes from the SELPA's AB 602 funds (known as Off The Top funds) with additional funding for students not residing at home from the Out of Home Funds from the AB 602 allocation (OOH funds). Some of the designated funds are used to provide tools for the program with the remaining funds going to the LEA running the program.

Schools are expected to run their programs within the guidelines listed below. If a program is unable to meet its obligation, the SELPA will bring the program to the Program Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC will determine the next steps for the program, which can include but are not limited to, providing time for the program to come into compliance, approving a temporary waiver of the requirements, or recommending reducing or canceling the subsidy.

Staffing Requirements

- 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher
- 0.2 FTE Mental Health provider 0.3+ recommended
- 2.0 FTE Paraprofessionals scheduled to cover the whole day, including before and after school transitions

Funding

The base subsidy for the program is set by the Governance counsel. For the 2024-25 school year, it was set at \$50,000 per class. The intended use of the funds is to offset the cost of:

- Staffing
- Data tracking software (to reduce costs, the SELPA will purchase bulk licenses)
- Behavior incentives (it is recommended that each class have an annual budget for these)
- Post-ERICs transition planning

In addition to the base subsidy, the SELPA provides an OOH subsidy for students that do not live with their families. The subsidy is up to \$3,000 per based on student attendance at the following percentages:

- 1 to 60 days of enrollment, 34% of subsidy
- 61 to 120 days of enrollment, 67% of the subsidy
- Over 120 days of enrollment, 100% of the subsidy

LEAs will submit requests for the OOH subsidy by the start of business on the first work day in May of the school year in which the student was enrolled.

Students from out of district are funded at

- The full cost of a seat in class by the sending district
- \$1,000 SELPA stipend for non-quantifiable indirect costs

Structure

- Located on a Comprehensive School Campus
- Implement approved Data Collection Tool
- Daily data collection for each student
- Align classroom with approved behavior program, such as the recommended Tiers model from Diana Browning-Wright's Book, RtI in Intensive Settings
- Mental Health clinicians to provide group and individual counseling
- Classroom paraprofessionals are certified by SELPA/ LEA
- Classroom paraprofessionals provide behavioral support
- Class size is limited to 12 students or a ratio of 4 to 1

- Must average 8 students for the year
- Class size will be increased by one to allow for immediate placement of foster youth
- Districts may develop, in coordination with the SELPA, a push-in ERICs program. The SELPA would bring the program to PAC for approval.

Student Profile

- The student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) with identified behavior goals that require
 - Smaller class setting
 - Behavior Plan
 - Individual Counseling
 - Group/ milieu counseling
 - Other mental health supports such as Psych/ Social Work services, parent training, or counseling

Professional Development

To differentiate the ERICs classes from other placements, participation is mandatory

- Initial two days of training for all staff on the structure of the program before the start of the school year provided by the SELPA.
- Annual follow up a full day of training before the start of school
- Quarterly PLC/ Job-a-like meetings at SELPA
 - The meeting will include progress reports on students
 - Sharing of best practices
 - LEAs will provide substitutes for their teachers to attend.
 - Schedule of meeting sent out by June 1 of prior school year.

Data Monitoring

- Review of student-level data presented at PLC
- Reviews will be done quarterly

Opening a Class

The SELPA Governance Board designates the number of subsidies available each year through the budgeting process. If there are available subsidies, a one-page request letter should be submitted to the SELPA for review and approval. The letter should include,

- Overview of the class
- Planned staffing
- Location of the class, and a description of the available space
- Description of the behavior system to be implemented
- Staff training plan
- Explanation of the need for the class including other ERICs programs in the LEA
- Any benefits to the SELPA community, like partnerships with other LEAs