

# **Special Education Training Modules**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Are we permitted to include an accommodation instead of a goal?**

The present level of academic and functional performance (PLAAFP) should include all **current** strengths and needs. Once outlined, the IEP team must determine how the needs will be serviced. Not all needs may require a goal, as writing a goal for each need would create an unrealistic number of goals attainable within the term of the IEP (364 days). The team should prioritize the needs that will require a goal (SDI). Needs that may be met through other means may require an accommodation. If the IEP team determines that this is appropriate, then the PLAAFP should specifically address that the need will be met using an accommodation and address how that will be accomplished.

Compliance requires that the PLAAFP clearly reflect how all needs will be addressed.

### **If a student is receiving specially designed instruction, do they require a goal?**

Service minutes reflected on the service page of the IEP detail the amount of time, using Specially Designed Instruction (SDI), that will be required to address a specific goal.

### **Are hearing and vision results valid for the term of the school year or the calendar year?**

The term of the IEP (364 days) should dictate the need for renewed screening results. Since hearing and vision are “rule out factors”, consideration should be given to gathering this information prior to moving forward with either an annual IEP or MET. When in doubt, always apply timelines that cover a calendar year.

### **If we hold a virtual meeting, are staff permitted to initial to reflect that Procedural Safeguards were offered?**

Yes

**Are we permitted to excuse one of the members of an IEP team if that individual fulfills one of the 5 required roles?**

Yes, provided the parent is notified, agrees in advance of the meeting, and the team/individual adheres to the requirements outlined on the IEP Attendance Form.

CAUTION: When/If considering an excusal for a general education teacher, the team needs to be mindful that their absence from the discussion suggests that there will be no consideration for general education.

**When meeting for a student assigned to private day, are we required to have a general education teacher present?**

The IEP team should always plan to have a general education teacher present unless the parent has agreed ahead of time to excuse that participant. If the parent has agreed to excusal, the IEP Attendance Form should be completed and signed by the parent prior to the meeting.

CAUTION: By excluding a general education teacher, the team is suggesting that there will be no discussion or consideration for general education.

**Is an SLP permitted to serve as district representative if they are a member of the IEP team and provide instruction to the student?**

Yes, SLPs hired as CUSD employees may serve as the district representative.

NOTE: Contract SLP staff are not permitted to serve as the district representative. Since they are not district employees, they are not in a position to speak to what the district can provide, or confirm expenditures.

**Is an SLP permitted to serve as district representative if they do not provide services to the student?**

Yes, SLPs hired as CUSD employees may serve as the district representative.

NOTE: Contract SLP staff are not permitted to serve as the district representative. Since they are not district employees, they are not in a position to speak to what the district can provide, or confirm expenditures.