



Butte County SELPA

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“Different. Not less.”

-Temple Grandin

September 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is provided to give guidance to parents and guardians of students with disabilities who receive supports or accommodations under an individualized education plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan, and those who are suspected of having a disabling condition who could benefit from such supports.

The Butte County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) offers a variety of support to families in navigating the IEP process, including periodic trainings and meetings of the Community Advisory Committee, and by helping families and school districts work toward agreement on appropriate supports in facilitated IEPs or alternate dispute resolutions. Our SELPA Program Specialists are often called upon to act as a liaison between families and the district to ensure student needs are met.

Additionally, the SELPA utilizes federal grant funding for alternate dispute resolution to provide free access for families to independent child advocates at Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California, Inc. (530) 226-5129. Staff at Rowell can help field parent concerns when parents are reluctant to communicate with district staff, and they work collaboratively with the family and the district, and many times SELPA staff, to bring about meetings or resolutions without a need for other complaint processes.

Other free independent child advocates are available through Promotores of Northern Valley Catholic Social Service (530) 345-1600, whose mission is to advocate for the poor and vulnerable, and to contribute to freedom and independence. They provide Court-Appointed Special Advocates (or CASAs) for students coming through the foster system without stable advocates of their own.

Lastly, Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) (530) 345-4113, is another resource for some families. Individuals who receive services from Far Northern Regional Center may request assistance from a FNRC Client Rights Advocate retained by regional center from Disability Rights of California.

Information about these processes can be found on our SELPA website, at www.buttecountyselpa.org/info/dispute-resolution and please call or email us if you have any other questions, at (530) 532-5621 or selpasupport@bcoe.org

Sincerely,

SELPA Director