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| Board Agenda Item # | Agenda # II M |
| Date: | 6/14/17 |
| To: | Magnolia Board of Directors |
| From: | Caprice Young, Ed.D., CEO & Superintendent |
| Staff Lead: | Kenya Jackson, Chief Academic Officer |
| RE: | Letter of Intent to Exit SELPA |

Proposed Board Recommendation

I move that the board approve the Letter of Intent to exit the Charter Operated Program Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA).

Background

Attached is a template letter for schools to provide the required written notice to our current SELPA (COP3 in LAUSD) and the CDE. In California, if our school is considering LEA membership, for special education purposes, in a new SELPA, it is the interpretation of the CDE that we must submit a “year and a day notice” to our current SELPA (the LAUSD SELPA, which we belong to now as a “school of the District”) by June 30th of the year preceding the year we wish to join a new SELPA. This means that in order to join a new SELPA for the 2018-2019 school year, we need to alert the CDE and LAUSD’s SELPA with an “Intent to Exit” letter. This action is non-binding, but ensures that we maintain all options available. For more information see the CDE’s interpretation of Education Code 56195.3(b) This is a standard part of our annual special education funding negotiations process, but is also required in case MSA 4 and 5 end up being authorized by the Los Angeles County Office of Education or the CDE.

Budget Implications

None at this time

Name of Staff Originator:

Victoria Marzouk, Director of Special Programs

Attachments

Letter of Intent to Exit SELPA

June 1, 2017

Beth Kauffman
Associate Superintendent
Division on Special Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 South Beaudry Ave, 17th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Beth.kauffman@lausd.net

Dear Dr. Kauffman,

Over the past several years, the partnership between the Los Angeles Unified School District (“LAUSD”) and charter schools in the area of special education has become an extraordinary model in innovation and collaboration. On behalf of the charter schools participating in the Charter Operated Program, Option 3 (“COP3”), I am writing to express our gratitude for this ongoing collaboration.

Since its implementation, COP3 has led to the development of a local charter school special education infrastructure which has enabled participating charter schools to provide an expanded range of innovative and high-quality special education services and to increase the number and range of students with disabilities that they serve. The percentage of students with disabilities served by the 139 participating charter schools has increased over 40% since its inception (11.5% of total enrollment in 2016-17), and the relative proportion of students with low incidence disabilities has increased by over 90% since its inception (2.3% of total enrollment in 2016-17). This data demonstrates the strength in the partnership as well as supports the fact that increased autonomy leads to an increase in both the numbers and the range of disabilities represented.

Nevertheless, we recognize that special education arrangements within the LAUSD SELPA are subject to change. For this reason, charter schools must take steps necessary to preserve their autonomy and infrastructure by maintaining the ability to exit the SELPA should such action be in the best interest of the charter schools and their students.

Please accept this letter as notification that the undersigned charter schools reserve the right to exit the LAUSD SELPA effective July 1, 2018.

Please note that this notice is not binding upon the undersigned charter schools. If, in consideration of all options, the charter schools find that it is not in the best interest of their students to exit the SELPA, they will remain with the LAUSD SELPA for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

We look forward to ongoing engagement and collaboration.



Brian Bauer

Board President

LAUSD Charter Operated Program, Option 3

Executive Director, Granada Hills Charter High School

cc: Michelle King, Superintendent

Jose Cole-Gutierrez, Charter Schools Division, LAUSD

Members of the LAUSD Board of Education

Alexa Slater, California Department of Education

Gina Plate, California Charter Schools Association