



# San Diego Unified School District

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Office of the Deputy Superintendent  
Special Education Programs Division

March 28, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I want to share some changes you will be seeing on your child's IEP next year.

The California State Department of Education made changes in the school year 2006/07 to how they report special education services to be better aligned with the federal law. The primary service for most special education services is now considered *specialized academic instruction*, defined as: "Adapting, as appropriate to the needs of the child with a disability the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to ensure access of the child to the general curriculum, so that he or she can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children." (34 CFR 300.26(b)(3))

**Effective September 2008, Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) will be the primary service provided to all students who qualify for special education and will be available at all San Diego Unified School sites. There will no longer be terms such as ILS, PACE, Nonsevere, etc. as a primary service.** The IEP will now list the child's primary disability, (how they qualified for services) along with the amount of time the student will receive this service, how often, and in what environments. This means that the service could happen in general education, separate classroom, separate school, etc. Additional related services such as speech therapy will continue to be listed separately. An individual schedule will then be developed for each student based on their IEP to ensure that the IEP is followed. Provision of services in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) should be discussed at every meeting.

We recognize that a change of this nature may cause you to be concerned about the services your child will receive and in what environment. Please remember that the District is obligated to implement your child's agreed upon IEP; that will not change. Additionally, we anticipate much of the services provided in the district will look as they do now, however, there will be more options and flexibility.

### **What does this mean for my child:**

Each child's IEP will be implemented as developed by the IEP team. If your child requires services in a small setting delivered by a special education teacher, it will be identified as SAI support in a separate class, we will no longer be using the term special education class. If your child requires additional services in general education, it will be listed and provided as SAI support in general education. Other than the changes in how we name classes, all services will still be determined by the IEP team and look very similar to how they do now.

A series of community meetings will be planned in each high school cluster area for parents to hear more about these changes and ask questions.

These dates are:

<b>Clairemont High School</b> 4150 Ute Dr., San Diego, CA (92117) April 30, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Library)	<b>Mira Mesa High School</b> 10510 Reagan Rd. (92126) May 12, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Auditorium)
<b>Crawford High Educational Complex</b> 4191 Colts Way, San Diego CA 92115 May 15, 2008 6:30pm-8:00 (Small Theatre)	<b>Mission Bay High School</b> 2475 Grand Ave. (92109) May 29, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm
<b>Henry High School</b> 6702 Wandermere Dr. (92120) April 16, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Library)	<b>Morse High School</b> 6905 Skyline Dr. (92114) May 19, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm
<b>Hoover High School</b> 4474 El Cajon Blvd. (92115) April 17, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Rm No. 1103)	<b>Point Loma High School</b> 2335 Chatsworth Blvd. (92106) April 28, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (PAC Theatre)
<b>Kearny High Educational Complex</b> 7651 Wellington Way (92111) April 23, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Auditorium)	<b>San Diego High School Educational</b> 1405 Park Blvd. (92101) April 21, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Theatre)
<b>La Jolla High School</b> 750 Nautilus St. (92037) May 22, 2008 6:00pm-7:30pm	<b>Scripps Ranch High School</b> 10410 Treena St. (92124) May 6, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm
<b>Lincoln High School</b> 150 South 49th St. (92113) April 24, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Library)	<b>Serra High School</b> 5156 Santo Rd., (92124) May 1, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Library)
<b>Madison High School</b> 4833 Doliva Dr. (92117) May 14, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Student Dining)	<b>University City High School</b> 6949 Genesee Ave. (92122) May 20, 2008 6:30pm-8:00pm (Media Room)

Lastly, you may be aware that The San Diego Unified School District contracted with Dr. Thomas Hehir and Associates to provide a comprehensive review of Special Education services. Dr. Hehir presented his findings to the Board of Education on January 22, 2008. The Board of Education, staff members and parents endorsed the findings and recommendations. We are pleased to be able to begin working towards the recommendations that we will implement over a three-year period. The report is available on the district website at <http://www.sandi.net/depts/specialed>. We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward in our commitment to provide young children and eligible students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education consistent with federal and state laws.

Sincerely,

Roxie Jackson  
 Executive Director  
 Special Education Programs Division

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