

SELPA Formation Summary

Introduction

Santa Rosa Elementary School District (“SRES D”) and Santa Rosa High School District (“SRHSD”) are currently members of the Sonoma County Special Education Local Plan Area (“SELPA”). The Sonoma County SELPA includes as its members of school districts (“LEAs”) in Sonoma County. The SELPA, among other duties, ensures that a full continuum of special education supports and services are available for students with Individualized Educational Programs (“IEPs”). In addition, most special education funds go to the SELPA, and then are distributed to individual LEAs. SRES D and SRHSD are considering forming their own multi-district SELPA. SRES D and SRHSD have been researching and evaluating the possibility of forming their own multi-district SELPA. Forming a SELPA furthers SRCS’s vision of serving nearly all students in district, having local control of special education services, and fiscal responsibility.

Requirements for SELPA Formation

To form a SELPA, there are Size and Scope Requirements. A multidistrict SELPA, such as that which SRES D and SRHSD intend to create, in a non-metropolitan area does not have a minimum size requirement. A SELPA consisting of SRES D and SRHSD falls into this category, and thus does not have a minimum size requirement. A SELPA must also demonstrate that it can provide a full continuum of services and placements to its students with IEPs. The wide variety of programs and supports within SRES D and SRHSD, in addition to the availability of Non-Public Schools (NPS) inside and outside of the area, is such a full continuum of services and placements.

Fiscal Considerations

As mentioned most special education funds generated by member LEAs flow through the SELPA before distribution to LEAs. The SELPA, through its governing body, the Superintendents’ Council, determines how to allocate those funds, through a Fiscal Allocation Plan. A change in the Fiscal Allocation Plan, being phased in over the next two fiscal years, is resulting in a significant decrease in funding to SRES D and SRHSD. At that point, SRES D and SRHSD decided to explore leaving the Sonoma County SELPA and forming its own SELPA, as of July 1, 2026.

Fiscal projections suggest a net special education revenue increase of approximately \$1,115,000, if SRES D and SRHSD form their own SELPA. This is partially offset by an increase in costs. These additional expenditures would include:

- Five students served by Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) in the Specialized Health Program
- Forty-five students served by Itinerant Deaf/Hard of Hearing (“DHH”) SCOE staff
- Eleven students served by Itinerant Visually Impaired (“VI”) SCOE program staff

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- Potential California Childrens' Services ("CCS") - hosting a Medical Therapy Unit (currently at Lewis Campus)
- Potential minimal operational costs

The net fiscal gain, taking into account increased revenues and additional expenditures costs, is estimated at \$600,000.

Steps to SELPA Formation

Task	When	Status
Notify SELPA, SCOE	By Jun. 2025	Complete
Analysis (fiscal/program)	By Dec. 2025	Complete
Board Action	Dec. 17, 2025	Pending
Draft/Submit Local Plan to SCOE	Feb, 2025	To do
MOUs with agencies (SCOE, SELPA, etc.)	By April, 2025	To do
Assign staff for SELPA functions	By May, 2025	To do
CDE Approval	By June 30, 2025	Pending