

Policy 6159.2: Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 06/01/1995 | Last Revised Date: 08/01/2026 | Last Reviewed Date: 08/01/2026

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 56195.8 mandates districts to adopt policies for the special education programs and services they operate, including nonpublic, nonsectarian services provided to students with disabilities when no appropriate public education program is available to meet their special education needs. The nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency (NPS/A) is required to be certified as meeting state standards pursuant to Education Code 56366 and 56366.1.

The following policy and accompanying administrative regulation should be revised to comply with the policies and regulations of the Special Education Local Plan Area in which the district operates.

The Governing Board recognizes its responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education to students with disabilities in accordance with law. When the district is unable to provide direct special education and/or related services to students with disabilities, the Board may enter into a contract with a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency (NPS/A) to meet student needs consistent with the comprehensive local plan of the Special Education Local Plan Area.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 56366 and 56366.1, a district contracting with an NPS/A is required to verify that the NPS/A meets certification requirements. 5 CCR 3067 authorizes the district to request, in writing, that the California Department of Education (CDE) review the certification status of an NPS/A.

Additionally, Education Code 56366.1 requires districts to verify that the NPS/A provides staff training in the use of evidence-based practices and interventions specific to the unique behavioral needs of the NPS/A's student population.

Prior to entering into a contract to place any student in an NPS/A, the Superintendent or designee shall verify that the school or agency is certified to provide special education and related services to individuals with disabilities and complies with staff training requirements in accordance with Education Code 56366 and 56366.1.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 56366.1, an NPS/A that is certified or seeking certification is required to provide assurances to CDE that for any foster youth it serves, the NPS/A will serve as the school of origin of the foster youth and that the foster youth will be allowed to continue the foster youth's education in the school. For such purposes, "school of origin" includes placement in an NPS/A.

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee, such as the district's liaison for foster youth, shall verify that for any student served by an NPS/A who is a foster youth, the NPS/A agrees to serve as the school of origin of the foster youth and allow the foster youth to continue the foster youth's education in the NPS/A in accordance with Education Code 56366.1.

The Superintendent or designee shall monitor, on an ongoing basis, the certification of any NPS/A with which the district has a contract to ensure that the certification has not expired.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 56366.45, within 14 days of becoming aware of any change to the certification status of an NPS/A, the district is required to notify parents/guardians of district students who attend the NPS/A of the change in certification status and include in that notice, a copy of procedural safeguards.

Within 14 days of becoming aware of any change to the certification status of an NPS/A, including, but not limited to, receiving notification of a determination to suspend or revoke the certification of the NPS/A pursuant to Education Code 56366.4, the district shall notify, through email or regular mail, the parents/guardians of any district student who attends the NPS/A of the change in certification status, which includes a copy of procedural safeguards. The district shall maintain a record of such notice and make the notice available for inspection upon request by the California Department of Education. (Education Code 56366.45)

No district student with disabilities shall be referred to, or placed in, an NPS/A unless the student's individualized education program (IEP) team has determined that the placement is appropriate for the student. (Education Code 56342.1)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 56365, students enrolled in an NPS/A are deemed to be enrolled in public schools for state apportionment purposes. Districts pay to the NPS/A the full amount of the school tuition or the agency fees for participating students pursuant to the contract.

The district shall pay to the NPS/A the full amount of the tuition or fees, as applicable, for students with disabilities

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The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education to students with disabilities in accordance with law. When the district is unable to provide direct special education and/or related services to students with disabilities, the Board may enter into a contract with a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency (NPS/A) to meet student needs consistent with the comprehensive local plan of the Special Education Local Plan Area.

Prior to entering into a contract to place any student in an NPS/A, the Superintendent or designee shall verify that the school or agency is certified to provide special education and related services to individuals with disabilities and complies with staff training requirements in accordance with Education Code 56366 and 56366.1. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall monitor, on an ongoing basis, the certification of any NPS/A with which the district has a contract to ensure that the certification has not expired.

No district student shall be placed in an NPS/A unless the student's individualized education program (IEP) team has determined that an appropriate public education alternative does not exist and that the placement is appropriate for the student. (Education Code 56342.1)

The district shall pay to the NPS/A the full amount of the tuition or fees, as applicable, for students with disabilities who are enrolled in programs or receiving services provided by the NPS/A. (Education Code 56365)

In accordance with law, any student with disabilities placed in an NPS/A shall have all the rights and protections to which students with disabilities are generally entitled, including, but not limited to, procedural safeguards, due process rights, and periodic review of the student's IEP.

During the period when any student with disabilities is placed in an NPS/A, the student's IEP team shall retain responsibility for monitoring the student's progress towards meeting the goals identified in the IEP.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Board prior to approving an out-of-state placement for any district student.

The Superintendent or designee may apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to waive any of the requirements of Education Code 56365, 56366, and 56366.6. (Education Code 56366.2)

who are enrolled in programs or receiving services provided by the NPS/A pursuant to the contract. (Education Code 56365)

In accordance with law, any student with disabilities placed in an NPS/A shall have all the rights and protections to which students with disabilities are generally entitled, including, but not limited to, procedural safeguards, due process rights, and periodic review of the student's IEP.

During the period when any student with disabilities is placed in an NPS/A, the student's IEP team shall retain responsibility for monitoring the student's progress towards meeting the goals identified in the IEP.

CSBA NOTE: The U.S. Department of Education's January 2025, "Secretary's letter on Restraint and Seclusion," reminds educators of their collective responsibility to ensure that all students are educated in learning environments that are safe, supportive, and responsive to their needs and encourages districts to provide educators opportunities to learn about and implement positive, proactive practices in schools and early childhood programs, including how to effectively support and respond to students' behavioral needs.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any contract with an NPS/A contains a requirement for the NPS/A to comply with district policy, procedures, and practices related to student rights, health, and safety, including the use of seclusion and restraint. All NPS/A staff that serve district students shall be made aware of, and trained in such policies, procedures, and practices.

CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraph may be modified to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Education Code 56366.1, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to take actions prior to certifying an NPS/A located outside of California, which, as amended by SB 373 (Ch. 579, Statutes of 2025), have been expanded. Additionally, Education Code 56366.1, as amended by SB 373, expands the requirements for districts related to monitoring visits of NPS/A located outside of California. For more information regarding certification of NPS/A, see the accompanying AR.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Board prior to approving an out-of-state placement for any district student.

The Superintendent or designee may apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to waive any of the requirements of Education Code 56365, 56366, and 56366.6. (Education Code 56366.2)
