

CLCS Special Education Board Report

March 2017

ACLCLC

ALAMEDA
COMMUNITY
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CENTER



Nea

NEA
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Current Topics in CLCS Special Education

Staffing

In addition to the increase in need for paraprofessionals in order to meet the needs of new students at ACLC mentioned in December's report, one of our valuable paraprofessionals, Megan Elliott, left to pursue her counseling career in February. As such we have hired two paraprofessionals at ACLC and now have a special education team that is entirely new to the school. I am looking forward to helping develop our new staff.

Professional Development

In the last few months, CLCS special education staff have participated in several professional development opportunities relative to their specific positions. High school education specialists from Nea and ACLC attended a training given by our SELPA on transition planning and learned more about preparing our special education learners for life after high school. Our SELPA also lead a training regarding reading interventions that was well attended by Nea and ACLC education specialists. Jacob Kahn, our very experienced Nea Lower Village paraprofessional lead a training for Nea paraprofessionals regarding best practices in the position, which was well received. Additionally, I have lead development for education specialists on IEP compliance including suggestions following a file review from Emi Johnson, former El Dorado County SELPA Director, who was impressed with our growth since her visit last year. Finally, I thoroughly enjoyed leading Nea special education staff in an interactive training on addressing non-compliant behaviors with their learners. I am thrilled to provide this same development in addition to the one in which I engaged special education staff on how to provide "Accommodations on the Spot", to our new ACLC staff as well.

Expenses

As a result of the increase of learners with service heavy IEPs who have entered both Nea and ACLC this school year, this year's special education expenses have also increased at both sites with Nea experiencing the largest spike in special education related costs. This increase is mostly due to incoming learners with 1:1 paraprofessionals as a related service we are mandated to provide on their existing IEPs. In planning for next year given what we know about our current learners social and educational needs and progress, we have planned to decrease the number of our paraprofessionals and eliminate a part-time Special Education Assistant position. We are also thinking creatively about our contracted employees and how to consolidate those services between sited. We will have more information about our necessary staffing expenses in the months to come when we begin to meet families who have committed to entering CLCS next school year.

Neku Pogue, Director of Special Education, March 2017