

Background

In 1997, the United States Congress substantially revised the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) related to serving special education students. The U.S. Department of Education issued regulations to implement the revised law in 1999. These new regulations affect the special education services for children with disabilities who are voluntarily placed by their parents in private schools.

Again in 2004, the U.S. Congress reauthorized the IDEA and the new Individuals with Disabilities Act continues to guide our public school relationship to private school students and special education.

The Tehama County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) has developed a policy entitled "Policy for students with Disabilities Enrolled by their Parents in Private School."

The policy reiterates the federal law and regulations which states that *no private school child with a disability has an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services that the child would receive if enrolled in the public school system.*

Procedures

1. Every child with a disability whose parent has indicated a possible interest in enrolling in the district of residence shall receive an offer of FAPE (Free, Appropriate, Public Education) from the district in which the student resides (district of residence).
2. For students in grades K-12, if the parent chooses to have their child with a disability attend a private school, services will be restricted and provided through the Local Education Agency in which the private school is located.

3. Every child suspected of having a disability shall be referred by parent or school to the Local Education Agency in which the private school is located for initial assessment eligibility into special education.
4. Only a proportionate share of federal funds are legally available for use on services provided to students with exceptional needs parentally placed in private schools.
5. Services to be provided by the Local Education Agency are identified through consultation and/or collaboration with private school principals and parents of private school students.
6. When those funds are depleted, services may be discontinued for the school year. Services will not be provided on a "per child" basis.

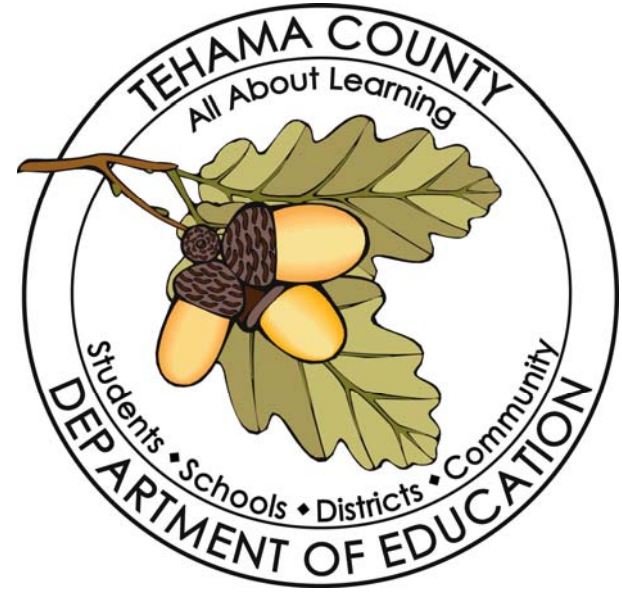


For More Information
Contact

Tehama County SELPA
900 Palm Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
530-527-8581



Tehama County SELPA



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For a copy of the
Tehama County SELPA's
Parentally Placed Private
School Students policy,
please contact the
Tehama County SELPA

900 Palm Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
530-527-8581

**Service to Students with
Disabilities Voluntarily
Enrolled in
Private Schools**

Tehama County
Special Education Local Plan Area

Tehama County Department of Education
Richard DuVarney, Superintendent