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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Sondra Aguilera, Chief Academic Officer
Jennifer Blake, Executive Director, Special Education Department

Meeting Date January 10, 2024

Subject Special Education Program Updates

Ask of the Board Receive an update on the OUSD Special Education Program and Provide Feedback on the Special Education Program Continuum

Background Pursuant to Federal and State law, all public school districts must find, evaluate, and--if eligible--serve students with disabilities who require Special Education services by providing a continuum of academic and related services that enable each student to make progress in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Oakland Unified School District is of sufficient size and diversity to be its own Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), an organizational structure unique to California. This means the OUSD SELPA serves students from birth to 22 in many different settings, and the OUSD Board of Education is the SELPA Board, as well.

Discussion As of 11/21/23, OUSD has 6,800 eligible students and 575 pending initial referrals to Special Education. This represents about 18% of OUSD's student body. About 24% of OUSD students have either an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan.

Our SELPA offers a continuum of services for students with an IEP that begins with inclusive services, provides four different types of self-contained classrooms, and offers a host of related services, such as speech and language, occupational and physical therapy, mental health counseling, job coaching and college/career awareness, and low incidence services. Additionally, the District has invested in Disability Access activities pursuant to Board Resolution 2021-0159, which has increased support and inclusion of students with disabilities in after-school programming, Summer learning, athletics, and visual and performing arts electives, in addition to providing families of students with IEPs with structured activities to come together, build community, and play.

This presentation will focus on enrollment and program articulation, Special Education student data, and curricular investments to support students with disabilities, in addition to diving into our progress implementing the Disability Access Resolution.

Fiscal Impact No fiscal impact at this time.

Attachment(s) • Presentation