



**BAY AREA REGIONAL OFFICE**  
1330 Broadway, Suite 500  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Tel: (510) 267-1200  
TTY: (800) 719-5798  
Toll Free: (800) 776-5746  
Fax: (510) 267-1201  
[www.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)

*California's protection and advocacy system*

---

Comments of Disability Rights California at Oakland Unified School District  
School Board Meeting

June 27, 2012

Good afternoon. I'm Maggie Roberts, Associate Managing Attorney with Disability Rights California.

Disability Rights California and a number of other advocacy agencies are deeply concerned about the proposed cuts to the budget and special education program of the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and we are following this matter closely. OUSD already has a poor track record of providing free appropriate public education to children with exceptional needs as evidenced by recent data collected by the California Department of Education and the high volume of calls we get from parents within OUSD regarding difficulty accessing appropriate special education services and related services for their children. These proposed cuts are severe and they will only make the already poor outcomes from children within this district even worse. As far as fiscal consequences, approving these budget and service cuts will likely result in a substantial increase in legal costs to the district related to increase filings for due process hearings and litigation. These cuts will also likely result in increased service costs as resulting delays in getting appropriate services will increase the level of students' needs and the resulting costs. If the District and this Board decide that some programmatic changes are necessary, these decisions should be made in collaboration with stakeholders, including parents, and in consultation with an expert who has experience in making or analyzing special education programmatic changes in school districts with the size and demographics of Oakland Unified School District.

Thank you for considering these comments.