



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Regular Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC)

Zoom Link: <https://ousd.zoom.us/j/86849229150>

Meeting ID: 868 4922 9150

By Phone: 1-669-444-9171

May 12, 2025

ALL BODIES ARE UNIQUE AND ESSENTIAL.

**ALL BODIES ARE WHOLE. ALL BODIES HAVE
STRENGTHS AND NEEDS THAT MUST BE MET.**

**WE ARE POWERFUL NOT DESPITE THE COMPLEXITIES
OF OUR BODIES, BUT BECAUSE OF THEM.**

WE MOVE TOGETHER, WITH NO BODY LEFT BEHIND.

THIS IS DISABILITY JUSTICE.



TODOS LOS CUERPOS SON ÚNICOS Y ESENCIALES.

**TODOS LOS CUERPOS SON COMPLETOS. TODOS LOS
CUERPOS
TIENEN FORTALEZAS Y NECESIDADES QUE SE DEBEN SUPLIR.**

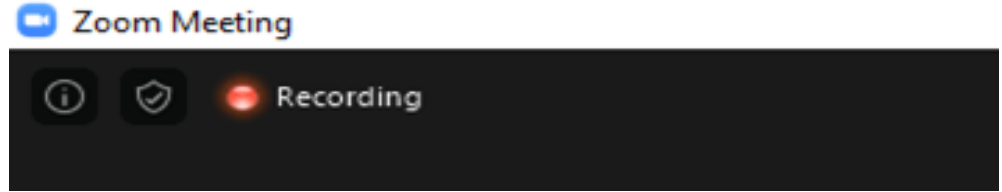
**SOMOS PODEROSOS NO A PESAR DE LAS COMPLEJIDADES DE
NUESTROS CUERPOS, SINO DEBIDO A ELLAS.**

NOS MOVEMOS JUNTOS, SIN DEJAR NINGÚN CUERPO ATRÁS.

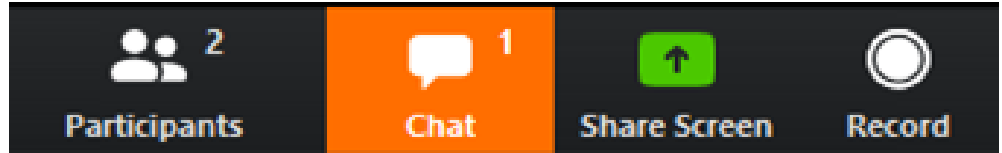
**ESTO ES JUSTICIA DE
DISCAPACIDAD.**

<https://www.sinsinvalid.org/>

We are recording.



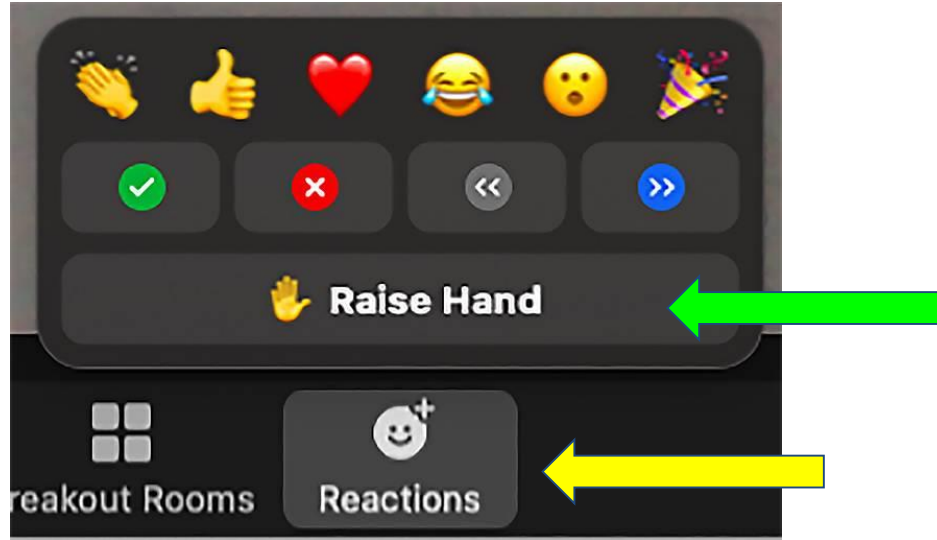
We invite you to use the chat.



Reminder: We can see and hear **EVERYONE**.

Please keep your sound turned off until you ask a question or make a comment.

Please raise your hand to speak.



Security Instructions

You can find links for tonight's documents at ousd.org/LCAP . The folder for the **Community Advisory Committee for Special Education** is at the bottom of the page. Look inside for today's date.

CAC Members and Special Education/Central Office Administrators

Please remember to rename yourselves
starting with the abbreviations
CAC or CEN

Example: **CAC-Corvette Kirtman**

Celebrating Our Young Adults and their Goals for the Future

Meeting Goals and Agreements

We have five goals for tonight:

1. Reground in the June 2024 CAC recommendations for the OUSD 2024-27 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)
2. Evaluate the success of the CAC community in advancing its key initiatives as they connect to the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)
3. Discuss next steps for helping to implement the recommendations for the LCAP

4. Celebrate the partnerships between the Special Education Department and other OUSD units that have most yielded improvements in the support that disabled students with IEPs receive
5. Look ahead to the work of the CAC in 2025-26

Members will also vote to elect a new CAC member.

Our Agreements

- One person speaks at a time (one microphone)
- Take space; make space
- Honor the agenda
- Tough on problems; easy on people
- Listen to understand
- Offer solutions

Review of the Agenda

6:00 30 mins.	Welcome, Goals, Agreements, Introductions, Roll Call
6:30 15 mins.	CAC Announcements
6:45 25 mins.	Special Education Updates
7:10 10 mins.	Break
7:20 40 mins.	The Local Control & Accountability Plan: CAC Recommendations
8:00 10 mins.	Looking Ahead to 2025-26
8:00 10 mins.	Announcements, Appreciations, & Public Comments

Introducing Ourselves

The Special Education Leadership Team

Executive Director



Jenn Blake, Executive Director,
Special Education and Health Services
Jennifer.Blake@ousd.org

K-12 School Support



Theresa Lozach

theresa.lozach@ousd.org
Director, Special Education
ECE



Micaela Reinstein

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Director, Elementary
Programs [Network 2]



Liana Nelson

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Coordinator, Elementary
Programs [Networks 3 & 4]



Cary Kaufman

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Director, Middle School
Programs and Legal Support



Dr. Bianca D'Allesandro

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Coordinator, Secondary
Programs



Stephen Raser

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Director, High School
Programs

Transition Services



David Cammarata

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Director, Young Adult and
Transition Services



Jake Hall

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Assistant Principal, Young
Adult and Transition Services

Related Services



Anne Zarnowiecki

Anne.Zarnowiecki@ousd.org

Director, Related Services
(SLPs, OT, PT, Low Incidence)



Dr. Betty Lin

Betty.Lin@ousd.org

Coordinator, Related Services
and Support Staff



Dr. Stacey Lindsay

Stacey.Lindsay@ousd.org

Director, Psychological and
Mental Health Services

SELPA, IEP Quality, and Access



Aruna Subramanian

aruna.sokol@ousd.org
Coordinator, Disability Access



Rain Johnson

rain.johnson@ousd.org
SELPA Director [Nonpublic,
Private, Child Find,
Governance, and Contracts]



Peggy Forbes

peggy.forbes@ousd.org
Program Manager, IEP Quality

[Click Here](#) to view the Special Education Teacher on Special Assignment caseloads for 2024-25 in case you need to contact a member of our team about your child's special education services.

Who Is Here Today?



Please introduce yourself in the chat with your name and the name of your school, program, role, and/or organization.

You can also share the disability categories or identities with which you are most familiar from personal or family experience.



Roll Call

Members of the CAC for Special Education

Jonah Zimmerman-Bloch, Lateefa Ali, Lena Anthony,
Mike Beebe, Jennifer Blake, Carol Delton, Ashley Demelo, Cynthia
Gutiérrez, Sheila Haynes, Denise Huffstutler,
Patty Juergens, Corvetta Kirtman, Alan Pursell, Joe Manekin,
Coriander Melious, Anna Realini, Tiffany Stewart,
Sayuri Valenza, Inga Wagar, JD Woloshyn, Kristen Zimmerman

Quorum: 11

CAC Announcements & Election of a New Member

**We have a nominee
for CAC membership!**

Leona Lang,
parent of a student with an IEP
and Special Education teacher

CURRENT CAC VOTING MEMBERS:

Please send a text message to
Cintya Molina at 510-491-6069 with
your answer to the following question:

Do you want to elect the nominee as a CAC member?

YES + name of nominee

NO + name of nominee

ABSTAIN + name of nominee

You can become a CAC member at any time.

If you are interested, contact Cintya Molina at 510-491-6069 or cintya.molina@ousd.org.

Nominees must attend a minimum of 3 CAC meetings to become CAC members.

For additional information about the CAC:



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students



Special Education

Community Advisory Committee for Special Education

Role, Responsibilities, and Membership

Spring 2025

www.ousd.org



@OUSDnews

[CAC Orientation](#)

tinyurl.com/4p3d7wh9

Announcements

From the CAC inbox

CAC Participation in Legislative Day

CAC at the Special Education Resource Fair

CAC Participation in School Board Taskforce

Approval of Linked Learning Plan for the Young Adult Program

Advising on the Facilities Master Plan

You don't have to be a CAC member to support the work of the CAC.

Let Us Know If You Want to Help.

Write to us at cacoakland@gmail.com if you would like join a specific initiative or support our committee in any way.

Follow Us and Stay Connected!



tinyurl.com/yem3h3a6

This link QR code leads to all
CAC-related addresses and key documents.

May & June Meetings and Activities

Wednesday, 5/14		Report at School Board Meeting
Monday, 5/19	6:00 pm	Members Dialogue
Wednesday, 5/21	6:00 pm	Report at PSAC Meeting
Week of 5/28 Last Week of School		
Monday, 6/1	6:00 pm	Prepare to Present Recommendations for 2025-26 to the School Board
Wednesday, 6/11		Present Recommendations to the School Board
Friday, 6/13	5:00 pm	End-of-Year Celebration
Monday, 6/16	TBD	Members Reflection Gathering

Special Education Updates

Celebrating Fruitful Partnerships

Jennifer Blake, Special Education
Executive Director

Guiding Question from CAC Members

In 2024-25, which partnerships with other OUSD departments or units most yielded improvements in the educational and socio-emotional support that disabled students receive?

Central Departments

Beneficial Partnerships, 2024-25

MTSS Team:

- Breaking silos by:
 - Bringing Behavior Specialists together for a shared monthly community of practice
 - Creating shared coaching strategies and documentation processes
- Supporting students with disabilities by:
 - Ensuring elementary schools receive a consistent three-part professional learning arc focused on behavioral functions, deescalation, and reinforcement systems, with 212 teachers reached so far
 - Creating accountability and tracking systems for the implementation of interventions for all students, including those with IEPs

Early Childhood Education:

- Breaking silos by:
 - Creating shared practices for tiered interventions and universal conditions
 - Collaborative planning for use of inclusive grant dollars
- Supporting students with disabilities by:
 - Building a plan to reduce reliance on segregated programs and increase inclusive enrollment
 - Strategically funding three new positions, including a Burbank site administrator, family engagement specialist, and a TSA

Beneficial Partnerships, 2024-25

Linked Learning Team:

- Breaking silos by:
 - Building common goals with shared accountability
 - Providing staff training on reasonable accommodations for internship and work partners
- Supporting students with disabilities by:
 - Increasing access to work-based learning activities for students in self-contained programs
 - Increasing the number of students with IEPs participating in ECCO summer internships for two years running

Summer Learning:

- Breaking silos by:
 - Operating an integrated program with students receiving ESY co-located with general summer programs
 - Managing partner contracts to include dedicated space for students participating in SCPs
- Supporting students with disabilities by:
 - Funding non-IEP added support for students in credit recovery
 - Prioritizing students with IEPs for general summer program seats, resulting in more than proportional participation last summer

Schools & Staff

Amazing First Year Educators!

- Ryland Takaro, UFS
- Brenda Franklin, Castlemont
- Matthew Akuluze Skyline
- Ophelia Groomes Oakland High
- Gabriel Lugo Home/Hospital
- Sara Mahjoobi Frick
- Jonathan Uribe - KDA
- Liz Powers - Montclair
- Nicole Keer - SEED
- Sonia Montoya - Bella Vista
- Margaret Chinn (OT)
- Alana Northup- YAP
- Emily Lovato (SLP)
- Magdalena Harper (Psych)
- Valexis Sutton- Skyline, mid year hire
- Luis Ocegueda - Not first year in education, but first in this role
- Monica Torres- Piedmont Ave
- David Reed (MPA)
- Runda Osman (O High)
- Sienna Kuykendall (OT)

Site Highlights & Shout-Outs

Madison Park Upper:

- Reduced past-due IEPs considerably compared with last year
- Engaging in strategic planning for student groupings by analyzing iReady and Transmath/Language Live data
- Providing consistent literacy intervention for struggling readers

Joaquin Miller:

- Impactful partnership and deep planning work to create a learning center model that allows more students access to a flexible continuum of service rather than a binary RSP/SCP model.

Site Highlights & Shout-Outs

Esperanza:

- Year one principal who has dived into Special Education and been an active presence in the SCP programs on campus
- Direct relationship building with Special Education teachers and staff

Oakland High:

- Principal is providing meaningful feedback to support staff through the evaluation process
- Commitment to ensuring rigor in all programs
- Strong hiring of a midyear educator to lead the TACLE program

Site Highlights & Shout-Outs

Claremont:

- Administrative presence in learning walks and next steps to improve instructional quality in our SCPs
- Monthly SpEd:Site Leadership meetings
- Higher rates of IEP completion
- Reduction in support staff vacancies

Edna Brewer:

- Productive and consistent monthly SpEd:Site Leadership meetings
- Higher rates of IEP completion
- Student-level team consultation led to reduction in referrals and suspensions from SCPs

Questions





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzmA1kkk660>

Break 10 minutes

CAC Recommendations for the Local Control and Accountability Plan

**Link to the 2024-27 LCAP
as adopted in June 2024**

tinyurl.com/5bmznrmm

**Pay special attention to Action 2.4,
which begins on page 73.**

**Link to the CAC Recommendations
for the 2024-27 LCAP with
Responses from the Superintendent**

tinyurl.com/42bsjd2z

Go to page 23.

**Discussion of
CAC Recommendations
in Relationship to
their Current Initiatives**

1) Board Adoption of *Resolution to Promote School Stability and Belonging for Disabled Students in OUSD*

Stopping the Expulsion of Disabled Students from their Schools to Close their Programs

2) Reducing Suspensions for Disabled Black Students in Middle School

3) Implementing *Board-Adopted Resolution No. 2021-0159: Ensuring Access to Social-Emotional and Academic Supports for Students with Disabilities* After-School, Visual-Performing Arts, Athletics, Work-Based/Linked Learning, etc.

4) Access and Equity for the Young Adult Program: Measure N/H Funding and Work-Career Opportunities for Disabled Students

5) Sufficient Staffing for Disabled Students with IEPs: Special Education Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Instructional Support Specialists

6) School Board Legislative Priorities Related to Special Education: Requirements for Charter Schools, Funding for Students with Intensive Services



Discussion

Looking Ahead to 2025-26

**Please share our 2025-26 flyer
and calendar of meetings.**

English: tinyurl.com/yc2dnm9y

Spanish: tinyurl.com/y8ydrtbs

We will place the Arabic and Cantonese versions into the CAC public folder and into the document linked in the previous page as soon as they are available.

What is **one question** that you would like to have answered

OR

one change that you would like to see happen

in the 2025-26 school year?

Announcements, Appreciations Comments

**ALL BODIES ARE CAUGHT IN THE BINDINGS OF ABILITY,
RACE, CLASS, GENDER, SEXUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP.
WE ARE POWERFUL NOT DESPITE THE COMPLEXITIES
OF OUR IDENTITIES, BUT BECAUSE OF THEM.**

**ONLY UNIVERSAL, COLLECTIVE ACCESS CAN
LEAD TO UNIVERSAL, COLLECTIVE LIBERATION.**

THIS IS DISABILITY JUSTICE.



Written by Aurora Levins Morales, Patty
Berne and Micah Bazant for Sins Invalid.

**TODOS LOS CUERPOS ESTAN ATRAPADOS EN LAS ATADURAS
DE LA CAPACIDAD, RAZA, CLASE, GENERO, SEXUALIDAD Y
CIUDADANIA.**

**SOMOS PODEROSOS NO A PESAR DE LAS COMPLEJIDADES DE
NUESTRAS IDENTIDADES, SINO DEBIDO A ELLAS.**

**SÓLO EL ACCESO UNIVERSAL Y COLECTIVO NOS PUEDE LLEVAR
A LA LIBERACIÓN UNIVERSAL Y COLECTIVA.**

ESTO ES JUSTICIA DE DISCAPACIDAD.

<https://www.sinsinvalid.org/>

Appendix

About Us:
**The Community Advisory
Committee for Special
Education**

Who can be part of the CAC?

Parents of disabled students in public or private schools

Parents of other students

Disabled students and adults

General Education teachers

Special Education teachers

Other school personnel

Representatives of other public and private agencies

Persons concerned with the needs of disabled people

Source 30 EC 56192

Our committee is required by law.

All Special Education Local Plan areas must establish and support a **Community Advisory Committee for Special Education** or **CAC**.

CA Education Code Section 30 EC 56190

OUSD is a one-district SELPA.

The OUSD Board of Education **IS** the SELPA Board.

Board Directors review, adopt, help to implement, and evaluate the *Local Plan for Special Education* in partnership with our committee and community.

What We Do

a) Advise on the development, amendment, and review of the Local Plan for Special Education

b) Recommend annual priorities

c) Assist in parent education and in recruiting parents and volunteers who may help to implement the plan

What We Do

- d) Encourage community involvement in the development and review of the local plan**
- e) Support activities on behalf of disabled people**
- f) Assist in parent awareness of the importance of regular school attendance**

What We Do

g) Support community involvement in the [LCAP] parent advisory committee . . .

to make sure that the parents of disabled students are included