

# TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA (SELPA)

## APPENDIX D

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### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

# **LOCAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES to STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

On June 30, 2011, AB 114 (a trailer bill to the 2011-12 Budget Act) was signed into law. Under AB 114, the state mandate requiring county mental health departments to provide mental health services to students with disabilities was repealed. Instead, AB 114 requires that all California school districts/LEAs are solely responsible for ensuring that students with disabilities receive the mental health services necessary, as outlined in their IEPs, to benefit from a special education program. The Budget Act of 2011-12 introduced the phrase “Educationally Related Mental Health Services” (ERMHS). Subsequently the term “Educationally Related Intensive Counseling Services” (ERICS) has come to be used to describe clinical mental health services for students with IEPs.

The Tri-Valley SELPA has established a Clinical Services Department to address the need for ERICS. The Clinical Services Department is staffed by a Director or Assistant Director and sufficient clinical counselors to provide assessments, outpatient counseling, and mental health support to all-SELPA-draw Counseling Enriched Classes (CECs) located in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. In addition the Clinical Services Department utilizes the clerical services of the SELPA office.

Districts continue to be directly responsible for arranging and funding mental health services to students in non-public school (NPS) and residential treatment center (RTC) placements.

Based upon an appropriate referral and completed assessments IEP teams convene to determine eligibility for ERICS. Mental health as a related service is identified as mental health services that are *required* in order for a student to benefit from their special education program. If ERICS is recommended, social emotional goals will be written for the IEP and the student will be assigned to a Mental Health Clinician. Clinicians provide ERICS to students on a pull-out basis or as part of their educational placement in a Counseling Enriched Class. Group counseling and parent counseling may be included as part of the recommended related services.

Mental health services are reviewed periodically throughout the year to determine progress towards goals.