

# SANTA CLARA NW SELPA

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

### What is CAC?

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is made up of parents, educators, and community members who are involved in special education. Santa Clara NW SELPA CAC conducts meetings and special events throughout the year and serves in an advisory capacity to the the SELPA Governance Council of Superintendents through the SELPA Executive Director.

### **CAC Membership**

CAC members include parents of students with disabilities, students and adults with disabilities, parents of students without disabilities, general education teacher, special education teachers and other school personnel, representatives from other agencies, and other persons concerned with the needs of students with exceptional needs.

The members of the CAC are appointed by, and responsible to, the governing board of each participating local education agency in Santa Clara NW SELPA. If you wish to be considered for a board-appointed, voting position in the CAC, please contact the Director of Special Education in your child's district of residence.

### **CAC Responsibilities**

- Advise the SELPA Governing Board through the SELPA Executive Director
- Recommend annual priorities to be addressed by the SELPA.
- Assist in parent education and in recruiting parents and other volunteers
- Encourage community involvement.
- Support activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs.
- Assist in parent awareness of the importance of regular school attendance.
- Support community involvement in parent advisory committee to encourage the inclusion of parents of individuals with exceptional needs

## Why is it worth your time to attend CAC meetings?

Parents who have attended Community Advisory Committee meetings report that they have found opportunities to:

- Connect with other parents and with school district teachers and administrators,
- Learn about resources for their child and family,
- Participate in shaping the activities of the committee, including conversations with school district staff and administrators, parent workshops, an awards ceremony, and
- Develop and expand their leadership skills.

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## How can CAC help?

Attending CAC events gives parents a chance to meet other parents of children with special needs to obtain support and resources. During the year, CAC will promote a variety of events.

For a list of upcoming events please visit our <u>website</u>.

### **CAC** Meetings

The CAC holds periodic meetings during the year to meet its responsibilities and provide advice related to special education that impact the SELPA. The meetings are open to the public. Anyone with an interest in special education is encouraged to attend, especially if your child receives special education services from one of the local education agencies in Santa Clara NW SELPA.

### **NW SELPA Member Local Education Agencies**

Cambrian School District, Campbell Union School District, Campbell Union High School District, Cupertino Union School District, Fremont Union High School District, Lakeside Joint School District, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, Los Altos Elementary School District, Los Gatos Union School District, Los Gatos Saratoga Union High School District, Luther Burbank School District, Moreland School District, Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, Mountain View Whisman School District, Palo Alto Unified School District, San Jose Unified School District, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Santa Clara Unified School District, Saratoga Union School District, Sunnyvale School District, Union School District.

### Get Involved!

If you're passionate about supporting special education and want to make a difference, consider joining the CAC or staying informed about its activities. Complete the <u>interest form</u> or contact us at 408-453-6960.

Join us in making a positive impact on the lives of students with exceptional needs. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!