

Fiscal Allocation Plan

Sonoma County Charter SELPA

Core Principles

- Stable and predictable funding
- Timely and accurate projections
- Timely and accurate distribution of cash
- Fairness and equity
- Transparency

Basic Elements

- Funding distribution is based on the current year funded ADA
- Administrative Services Fee component for Sonoma County Charter SELPA
 - Set Aside Pool to protect against future instability
 - CDE calculates the Program Specialist and Regionalized Services (PS/RS) funding based on the Sonoma County Charter SELPA current year P2 ADA by the statewide 2019/20 target rate.
 - Recapture of unspent special education funds
 - Charter Management Organization (CMO) Flexibility: ability to reallocate funds within the CMO to Charter Schools

Detailed Description of Funding

Definition of Funding (Education Code):

- *EC 47644. For each charter school deemed a local educational agency for the purposes of special education, an amount equal to the amount computed pursuant to Section 56836.08 for special education local plan area in which the charter school is included shall be apportioned by the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to the local allocation plan developed pursuant to subdivision (i) of EC 56195.7 or EC 56836.05, or both. If the charter school is a participant in a local plan that only includes other charter schools pursuant to subdivision (f) of EC 56195.1, the amount computed pursuant to EC 56836.11, as adjusted pursuant to the incidence multiplier set forth in EC 56836.155,*

shall be apportioned by the department [California Department of Education] for each unit of average daily attendance reported pursuant to subdivision (a) of EC 56836.06.

The major portion of funding for the Charter SELPA comes from state and federal sources. The Funding Allocation Plan is comprised of the following areas:

1. State Funding (AB 602 dollars, including COLA)

- a. CDE has determined that the Sonoma County Charter SELPA shall receive the statewide average target rate as identified in the approved state budget.
- b. A Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) may be included in the Budget Act each year. The statewide average target rate is adjusted by the COLA and distributed on a per ADA basis to members.

2. Federal Funding

- a. Federal funds are received and passed through to Charter SELPA member LEAs.
- b. Distribution of federal funds will be based on prior year ADA.
- c. Federal PL94-142/IDEA Background
 - i. Each year the state of California receives a grant amount of IDEA/PL94142 funds. The state distributes this to SELPAs on a formula that is based on a historical amount per SELPA from 1999, adjusted by two other factors; special education students (population) and free and reduced count (poverty). In order to determine the Charter SELPA base rate, CDE goes back to the SELPA of origin (authorizing charter entity), and removes from their BASE an equivalent Special Education Pupil Count amount, and further adjusts by population and poverty.

3. Sonoma County Charter SELPA Administrative Services Fee

- a. A percentage of the total funding is allocated to the Sonoma County Charter SELPA for administrative services. This is a SELPA deduct prior to allocating funds to the charter schools. The fee is calculated based on both state and federal funding sources; however, only state dollars will be transferred. The

administrative fee dollars will be combined with the Sonoma County Charter SELPA program specialist/regionalized services dollars to provide SELPA services.

- b. The Administrative Services Fee calculation is as follows:
 - i. 1st year membership = 6.5%
 - ii. 2nd and 3rd year = 6%
 - iii. 4th year and beyond = 5.5%
- c. New charter schools joining the SELPA as part of an existing Charter Management Organization (CMO) will follow the administrative fee tier placement of their currently participating charters within that same CMO.

4. Set Aside Pool

- a. Sonoma County Charter SELPA will maintain a Set Aside Contribution per LEA. The Set Aside Contribution is to provide a reserve fund against unforeseen losses to the Charter SELPA in upholding its current projected budget.
- b. The Set Aside Contribution will be based on a percentage of the current year's entitlement (after the administrative fee deduction) per LEA on a declining scale, as follows:
 - i. 1st Year = 5%
 - ii. 2nd Year = 4%
 - iii. 3rd Year = 3%
 - iv. 4th Year and beyond = 2%
- c. The amount set aside in the prior year will be used as a beginning balance, and when the current year's contribution is calculated, any amount overpaid to the Set Aside will be returned with the LEA's net distribution. Any additional amount due will be deducted from the LEA's net distribution.
- d. The Set Aside Contribution is not returnable should the LEA leave the Sonoma County Charter SELPA in year 1, year 2, or year 3. Any LEA leaving the Sonoma County Charter SELPA in year 4 or beyond will have their set-aside contribution returned if there are no outstanding financial obligations to the Sonoma County Charter SELPA. This three-year hold is

necessary to ensure that no prior year ADA adjustment by the LEA will impact the Sonoma County Charter SELPA funding.

5. High Cost Mental Health Pool

During the 2023-2024 school year, the CEO Council approved the development of a Mental Health High Cost Pool, to be funded with Educationally Related Mental Health Service (ERMHS) funds, from each member district. The Pool will be filled annually using the following methodology:

- a. The Pool will be maintained at 750K annually
- b. The Pool will be filled by participating LEAs, based on prior year P2 ADA
 - i. *The first year of the Pool will not require LEA contributions, as existing ending fund balance will fill the Pool*
- c. Any unspent funds will roll over to the next year
- d. The SELPA will seek requests for High Cost Mental Health placements in April of each year
- e. A High Cost ERMHS Pool Committee will meet with the Executive Director of the SELPA to review requests and make preliminary recommendations for approval in May of each year
- f. Official CEO Council approval of the recommendations will occur in June of each year
- g. Reimbursements will be funded up to 80% of the LEA's cost per placement
 - i. Funding will occur in July of each year, pending receipt of all invoices

The CEO Council further agreed on the following criteria for reimbursement:

- Student placement must be IEP team driven
- Student must be placed in a CDE certified NPS or Residential setting
- Student placement must include an ERMHS related need and/or goal

6. Low Incidence Funding

- a. Low Incidence funds are received by the SELPA and based upon the prior year student count of students eligible due to a Low Incidence disability. Funds are distributed to member LEAs twice annually, based upon their prior year count of students eligible due to a Low Incidence disability.