



SPOTLIGHT

ON ACCESS

## NEWS THIS MONTH

Month of November:

Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Diabetes Awareness Month

Epilepsy Awareness Month

Nov. 8, 2025 Aicardi Syndrome Awareness Day

Nov. 29, 2025 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IDEA

## UPCOMING FREE PD

Nov. 4, 2025 - Intro to SpEd Basics: [Link](#)

Nov. 18, 2025 - Sensory Strategies in the Classroom: [Link](#)

Dec. 9, 2025 - SpEd for Gen Ed Teachers: [Link](#)

## LACOE Special Education Professional Development Calendar: [Link](#)

The LACOE Division of Special Education has created its full year professional development calendar. Specialized sessions for special education directors, coordinators and charter school administrators are available. General sessions such as transition, behavior and accommodations are also available.

### SB 445: [LINK](#)

SB 445 (2024) requires the California Department of Education to translate the IEP template into the top 10 languages spoken in the state, other than English, by January 1, 2027, or within 18 months of the template's digital launch, whichever comes first. In 2024, the California Collaborative for Education Excellence refined this template to guide educators and families in developing effective IEPs. The template emphasizes collaboration, student-centered planning, and outcomes-driven practices. Soon, it will be available digitally and in multiple languages on the CDE website.

Take a look at the IEP template: [Link](#)

### SWDS IN CA INCREASE IN 2024-2025

With the exception of COVID, the number of students with disabilities in CA has increased every year for the past decade. Additionally, the numbers of all K-12 students has decreased by over 400k. Thus, the percent of students with disabilities has increased from roughly 10% (about a decade ago) to 14% now. This will require LEAs to make sound financial and inclusion decisions going forward.

## HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup> B-DAY TO IDEA!!!

This year marks a significant milestone: 50 years since the original federal law for educating children with disabilities—then known as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act—was signed into law on November 29, 1975.

Over time, that legislation evolved into the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which ensures that millions of children and youth with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE), access to needed supports, and protections through due-process procedures.

For more information: [Link](#)



## SOLEDAD USD V. PARENTS

In this case, the Office of Administrative Hearings found that Soledad Unified's August 30, 2024 assessment plan was procedurally defective under Education Code §56329. The district failed to provide parents with required notices—such as explaining that a student cannot qualify for special education solely due to lack of instruction in reading or math, or because of limited-English proficiency—and did not inform them they would receive a copy of the completed assessment report and eligibility determination. Because these notices were missing, parents could not give informed consent. If you are using the state Parent Rights and Procedural Safeguards and the standard Assessment Plan, your district should review its forms to determine compliance.

Decision: [Link](#)