



NEWS THIS MONTH

Month of May:

National Speech-Language-Hearing Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

Mobility Awareness Month

May 4-8, 2026 - Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5, 2026 - Teacher Appreciation Day

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

May 12, 2026 - Data Tools & Dashboards: [Link](#)

We will be back in August with a new list of PD for 2026-2027!

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.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION OF DISABILITIES SCHOLARSHIP

The Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities offers scholarships through its 2026 Memorial Scholarship Program to help students with disabilities pursue higher education and independence. These include the Bernard Siegel/Bill Tainter Scholarship, honoring leaders in disability advocacy; the Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Memorial Scholarship for disabled veterans; and the Ruben Anthony Rios Creative Arts & Design Memorial Scholarship for students in creative fields. These opportunities are open to Los Angeles County residents with a diagnosed disability and at least a 2.0 GPA, supporting their academic and career goals.

Scholarship Application: [Link](#); Scholarship Letter: [Link](#)

UPDATE: J.R. V. VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

One reason the J.R. v. Ventura Unified School District case ([Link](#)) was concerning to school districts was because the two year statute of limitations was pierced. The court in 2024 found a denial of FAPE back to 2012 and ordered the district to place \$510,960 into a special needs trust for the student. However, on April 22, 2026, the Ninth Circuit reversed the ruling.

Ninth Circuit Court Opinion: [Link](#)

WHAT MAKES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVE?

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), evaluated how Title II-A federal funds are used for teacher professional development in K-12 education. The study focused on what research shows about effective professional development, what teachers find most useful, and how states and districts implement these funds. To do this, GAO reviewed meta-analyses, randomized controlled studies, national survey data, and input from educators to assess which approaches are most likely to improve teaching and student outcomes. The report finds that while professional development is generally associated with improved student performance, the evidence on which specific elements are most effective is mixed, though collaborative and sustained, job-embedded learning tends to be valued and linked to better outcomes. ([Link](#))

For special education administrators, the implications are that professional development should be ongoing, collaborative, and closely tied to classroom practice and data, rather than one-time trainings, and should be selected based on evidence of effectiveness. Administrators should also use the flexibility of federal funds strategically to meet local needs, ensure staff are trained in evidence-based practices, and monitor whether professional development actually improves student outcomes—especially for students with disabilities, who often require more specialized instructional approaches.



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