



SPOTLIGHT

ON ACCESS

NEWS THIS MONTH

Month of January:

National Braille Literacy Month

National Birth Defects Prevention Month

Jan. 4, 2026 World Braille Day

Jan. 11, 2026 Paget's Disease Awareness Day

UPCOMING FREE PDJan. 21, 2026 - Positive Reinforcement: [Link](#)Jan. 27, 2026 - Dyslexia and Dyscalculia: [Link](#)Feb. 10, 2026 - Intro to Transition IEPs: [Link](#)Feb. 24, 2026 - Transition Assessments: [Link](#)Very Special Arts Festival: [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.

BRIDGING BELONGING: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

EmbraceAbilities is a Special Education Resource Lead for CA specializing on advancing inclusive opportunities for students with extensive support needs. Kimberli Breen led a community of practice in December and Dr. Gail Ghere will be presenting on having a Culture of Academic Rigor on January 27, 2026 from 2:00-3:00. Dr. Ghere is a research associate at the TIES Center and the National Center on Educational Outcomes at the University of Minnesota. The webinar is free!

Register here for the Professional Learning Series: [Link](#)

CAASPP NEW ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

Scores on CAASPP for Students with Disabilities is a continued concern. Making sure students are receiving appropriate supports during testing is one way to help address this issue. CAASPP has created a new tool to help match the barriers that a student might face for testing with supports to address those needs. Check them out here: [Link](#) Additionally, students with an IEP are now allowed Sensory Items. Check out this item, along with other changes, at the CAASPP/ELPAC resource page: [Link](#)

LACOE INCLUSION CONFERENCE

Join us on March 10, 2026 for an inspiring, **free** one-day Inclusion Conference where you'll gain practical strategies and meaningful insights to strengthen your leadership skills and foster inclusive practices across your district, campus, and classrooms!

We have nationally recognized speaker, Jordyn Zimmerman, delivering our keynote. Other speakers include Howard Fulfroost from F3 Law, Kevin Schaefer from Supporting Inclusive Practices, and Gail Ghere from the TIES Center. Breakfast and lunch is included.

Flyer: [Link](#) Registration: [Link](#)

**JORDYN ZIMMERMAN****SB 373 SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR NPS**

SB 373 ([Link](#)) was signed on October 10, 2025, which has created additional compliance components for districts sending students to out of state placements.

Starting for the 2026-2027 school year, districts will need to interview all pupils with an IEP to discuss progress and address concerns, have quarterly check-ins with the student using unmonitored telephone calls, and the results will need to be reported to the state. The superintendent will create an interview tool by July 1, 2026 and have it posted.

Additionally, the bill requires that the pupil be given a copy of the Parent Rights and Procedural Safeguards.

For more information: [Link](#)