



SPOTLIGHT

ON ACCESS

NEWS THIS MONTH

Month of February:

Turner Syndrome Awareness Month

Feb. 15, 2026 International Angelman Day

Feb. 28, 2026 Rare Disease Day

UPCOMING FREE PD

Feb. 10, 2026 - Intro to Transition IEPs: [Link](#)

Feb. 24, 2026 - Transition Assessments: [Link](#)

Mar. 3, 2026 - Proactive vs Reactive Behavior Management: [Link](#)

Mar. 24, 2026 - Accommodations & Modifications for Student Access: [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.

UPDATE ON THE DEFINITION OF DYSLEXIA

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) has recently updated its 2002 definition of dyslexia. The new definition goes deeper into the defining characteristics of dyslexia, discusses the causal mechanisms, and looks at the intrinsic risk factors. Additionally, the definition looks at the secondary consequences of dyslexia such as reading comprehension, psychological well-being, and outcomes such as employment opportunities.

For more information: [Link](#)

AUTISM NUMBERS IN CALIFORNIA

In January, the State Board of Education released updated data on students with disabilities. Two years ago, autism was the third most prevalent disability. Last year, students with autism became the second largest group, surpassing students with speech impairments. This continued increase has important implications for hiring practices, instructional interventions, and professional development. For more information: [Link](#)

SECTION 504 IN THE U.S. & CA

UCLA looked at nationwide data on Section 504 plans. ([Link](#)) "Our findings show that in 3,298 districts, serving nearly 1.8 million students (1,781,962), not one 504-only student is identified. When all the districts with at least 1,000 enrolled students are examined, one can see that in 306 districts serving nearly one million students not one 504-only student is identified." In CA, 20 districts with 1,000+ students did not have a single 504 plan. Additionally, CA came in 46th out of the 50 states for having one of the lowest identification rates for Section 504.



SENATE BILL 848 ON PUPIL SAFETY

Senate Bill 848 (SB 848) strengthens California's pupil safety framework in ways that are especially important for students with disabilities, who face higher risks of abuse and greater barriers to disclosure. By expanding school safety plans to explicitly address child abuse and sexual misconduct, strengthening mandated reporter training, tightening hiring restrictions, and advancing a statewide educator misconduct data system, SB 848 increases prevention and early detection in high-contact settings such as special education classrooms, transportation, and nonpublic school placements

More information here: [Link](#)