



SPOTLIGHT

ON ACCESS

NEWS THIS MONTH

Month of March:

Brain Injury Awareness Month

National Developmental Disabilities Month

Mar 17, 2026 - Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Mar 21, 2026 - World Down Syndrome Day

UPCOMING FREE PD

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

Mar. 24, 2026 - Accommodations & Modifications for Student Access: [Link](#)

Apr 14, 2026 - SpEd Legal Basics: [Link](#)

Apr 28, 2026 - Membership and Belonging in the Preschool Classroom: [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.

ACADEMIC GAINS AND SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

A 2025 meta-analysis in *Review of Educational Research* found that universal school-based social and emotional learning (SEL) programs improve both academic performance and social-emotional development. Analyzing 40 studies with more than 33,700 students across 12 countries, researchers found higher grades and test scores among participants, with strongest results in elementary grades. Programs lasting longer than one semester showed the most consistent gains, especially in literacy and math, reinforcing SEL as a core instructional practice that supports equity, well-being, and achievement.

For more information: [Link](#)

PROPOSED LAW: 21ST CENTURY DYSLEXIA ACT

Identical bills in the Senate and the House propose having dyslexia as a new eligibility area under the IDEA. Nationally, about 32% of students qualify under the area of Specific Learning Disability. Disabilities have been added to IDEA in the past. For example, autism and Traumatic Brain injury were added in 1990.

S 3010: [Link](#)

HR 5069: [Link](#)

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

A central focus of Down Syndrome Awareness Month is the call for greater inclusion and belonging. True inclusion goes beyond physical placement in general settings; it requires intentional supports, collaborative teaching, and a culture that values every person as a contributing member of the community. When students and adults with Down syndrome are welcomed as peers, coworkers, and leaders, everyone benefits through stronger relationships, empathy, and shared growth. Building inclusive environments in classrooms, employment, and community life helps ensure that individuals with Down syndrome are not only present, but genuinely valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.



DATA TOOL: READING PROFICIENCY & POVERTY

The 74 educational news organization has looked at 10,000 districts, 42,000 schools representing 3 million students. They created an interactive chart and graphs to look at schools and districts that have third grade reading scores higher than expected when factoring in poverty rates. Poverty rates are defined as the percentage of students who qualify for free- and reduced-price lunch.

Additionally, the data can be broken out for public schools or charter schools based upon the users' needs.

Article with Interactive Graphs: [Link](#)

Interactive Map: [Link](#)