



SPOTLIGHT

ON ACCESS

NEWS THIS MONTH

Month of April:

Autism Awareness Month

National Deaf History Month

Apr. 2, 2026 - World Autism Awareness Day

Apr. 3, 2026 - Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

Apr. 15, 2026 - North American Sign Language Day

UPCOMING FREE PD

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

Apr 28, 2026 - Membership and Belonging in the Preschool Classroom: [Link](#)

May 12, 2026 - Data Tools & Dashboards: [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.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LITERACY INSTITUTE

The University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) will be conducting a free two-day phonics session hosted by San Gabriel Unified. The event is limited to 50 teachers. The training is June 15 and 16, 2026. UFLI is being used in all 50 states, all Canadian provinces and territories, and in 60 countries. The program follows a carefully developed scope and sequence designed to ensure that students systematically acquire each skill needed and learn to apply each skill with automaticity and confidence. The program is designed to be used for core instruction in the primary grades or for intervention with struggling students in any grade. Flyer: [Link](#) Registration: [Link](#)

DATE CHANGE: VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

Get ready for a day of fun, music, creativity and play at @musiccenterla's Very Special Arts Festival. **Date Change!** Friday, May 1st is for participating schools ([Link](#)) and Saturday, May 2nd is Family Day ([Link](#))! This FREE outdoor celebration invites children and families of all abilities to enjoy live music and dance performances, interactive art-making activities and even a magic show. Join us on #JerryMossPlaza where the arts unite us all.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH CA STATE LEADS

EmbraceAbilities is one of the 7 special education resource leads in California. Their focus is on improving outcomes for students with extensive support needs (ESN). This month we are highlighting two, free, professional development opportunities available via zoom:

The **Bridging Belonging: Inclusive School Culture Series** dives into inclusive practices including the integration of Behavior Supports and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) directly with Academic Rigor. As we move into Sessions 4 and 5 this April, we will highlight best practices for creating cohesive systems where high expectations and student well-being are mutually reinforced. [Flyer](#) Register Here: bit.ly/4qWhQo9

The **Statewide Focused Learning Strands** are designed to highlight promising practices for supporting students with ESN in a variety of contexts. In these, one hour sessions we will be highlighting bright spots across the state of California. [Flyer](#)

Improving School Experiences through Integration & Capacity Building Register Here: lcoe.k12oms.org/2709-277049

Bolstering Capacity for ESN on Comprehensive Campuses Register Here: lcoe.k12oms.org/2709-277051

Supporting ESN in Rural, Small, and Sparse Locations Register Here: lcoe.k12oms.org/2709-277052



<https://bit.ly/LACOESPED>

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