

Attachment D



SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent
Christine Baeta, Chief Academic Officer

March 12, 2021

Dear Sacramento City School District Family,

According to SCUSD's records, you have provided consent for your child to participate in special education assessments and the assessment(s) are incomplete. This letter is sent on behalf of the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) regarding the District's continued efforts to resume critical in-person special education assessments and to inform parents of a recent investigation regarding special education assessments, completed by the California Department of Education. Lastly, the District is pleased to highlight that on Friday, February 28, 2021, SCUSD and SCTA reached an agreement to begin conducting special education assessments which allows for in-person assessments to begin. This letter outlines next steps for initiating this process.

Since the March 2020 physical closure of District schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with applicable health guidelines, the District has been unable to timely complete in-person special education evaluations, including initial and triennial assessments. At the onset of the physical school closures, the District immediately engaged its labor partner, the Sacramento City Teachers association ("SCTA") with respect to how teachers, counselors, social workers, related service providers, and others would continue to provide instruction and support to all students during the school closure period. A detailed account of these negotiations can be found on the District's website at returntogether.scusd.edu/labor-negotiations.

On January 19, 2021, the District received an Investigation Report from CDE in relation to CDE Case S-0297-20/21, issued in response to a complaint filed on behalf of students awaiting special education assessments. CDE cited the District's failure to comply with Education Code section 56043(f), which requires convening an IEP team meeting to review an assessment within 60 calendar days (not counting days between the pupil's regular school sessions, terms or days of school vacation in excess of five school days) from the date of receipt of the parent's or guardian's written consent for assessment, unless the parent or guardian agrees in writing to an extension. As part of the corrective action ordered by CDE, the District has been directed to

communicate in writing to the parents/guardians of students awaiting special education assessments regarding the District's plan for completing individual student assessments.

On Friday, February 26, 2021, SCUSD and SCTA reached an agreement to begin conducting special education assessments. Pursuant to CDE's order to complete all outstanding assessments by July 30, 2020, the District plans to implement the following:

- SCTA members will be surveyed to identify volunteers who will conduct special education assessments;
- Volunteers will prioritize conducting assessments which are currently within the 60 day testing legal timeline and conducting 20% of the backlog of assessments each month, beginning with students with the earliest dates of parental consent provided in the District's special education information system;
- In the event that the District is unable to address 20% of the backlog of assessments during the first month, contractors will be utilized to support achieving this goal.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact your child's school site office. We look forward to working with you and your child to complete this very important effort.

Regards,

Dr. Sadie Hedegard
Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, Innovation & Learning