
SEDAC

Special Education District Advisory Council

Chair: Erin Bell

Our Shared Purpose

SEDAC's purpose is to advise and support high-quality special education and support services for CVUSD students by working collaboratively with CVUSD Administration and Board of Education on all things related to educational programs, policies, procedures, and specific actions being taken for students who receive special education services.

Working With Our Community

We are proud that we have fostered strong relationships with fellow District Advisory Councils (DAC) such as, GATE, PTSA, Student DAC, and DELAC, and we look forward to collaborating and building relationships with the newly forming DACs, LGBTQ+DAC and AADAC. We also have community partners such as Boys and Girls Club, Conejo Parks and Recreation, Thousand Oaks Library, Independent Living Resource Center, Rainbow and SELPA.

Our Shared Vision

We believe ALL students can achieve their fullest potential when we all collaboratively work together. We are better together.

SEDAC Collaborations

We consistently make efforts and strides to collaborate with all stakeholders. We have a strong presence in numerous committees for CVUSD and advocate for all students.

- ❖ Measure I Committee
- ❖ Reopen and Redesign Committee
- ❖ Budget Committee
- ❖ Safety Committee
- ❖ SPSA Rubrics
- ❖ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

SEDAC Committees

- New Member and Communication Committees joint effort established the SEDAC representative “Onboarding packet”
 - cover letter
 - clear definition of duties
 - timelines that align to district and state level documents
 - glossary of commonly used terms and acronyms like LCAP, FAPE and SPSA
- Safety Committee
 - Focus on School Safety Plans
 - Provided input and advocacy for the plan to include students with disabilities
- Curriculum Committee
 - Shared 9 Key takeaways from listening sessions
 - CVUSD is CHYA compliant, however, curriculum is not accessible to all students yet

Updates from SEDAC October General Meeting

- ❖ ESSR III
 - Update from Dr. Miller and Mr. Loo
- ❖ BCBA presentation and resources
 - <https://padlet.com/namin15/conejobbehaviorsupport>
- ❖ Transition Nights
 - Students moving from Preschool to Elementary School--November 2 from 5-6 pm
 - Students moving from Elementary School to Middle School--November 10 from 5-6 pm
 - Students moving from Middle School to High School--November 3 from 5-6 pm

Disability Simulations

experiments that imitate the experience of being disabled for able-bodied people — are designed to increase empathy and awareness of the issues facing disabled people, but newer studies suggests that these simulations are ineffective and do more harm than good.

What does the research say?

- ❖ 2014-Scientists from University of Colorado, Boulder
 - Reported able-bodied people who do physical simulation exercises actually rate disabled people as less competent afterwards, and are more likely to believe negative stereotypes about the disabled
- ❖ 2017 Study from Hiram College (Study entitled “Crip For A Day”)
 - The researchers explained that while disability simulations did make able-bodied people feel warmer and more kindly towards the disabled, the able-bodied didn't feel better about interacting with disabled people. Participants felt more confused, embarrassed, helpless, and more vulnerable to becoming disabled themselves compared to baseline. Participants also expressed more pity than they did empathy.

What can we do moving forward?

- Continue to be an ally
- Shift our focus to Accessibility and Inclusion
- Work together towards accessibility for all students
- Take this opportunity to listen, improve and learn
- Support and participate in Unity Day, Inclusive Schools Week and Disability History Month
- Support inclusive activities like Unified Sports, Sparkles Cheers, Special Olympics, Inclusive Elementary Class Performances
- Continue to make school events more accessible and inclusive
- Provide opportunities for genuine friendships to develop
- Explore and create learning opportunities that will go deeper than borrowing a wheelchair for a few minutes