

**ADMISSION OF LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES TO THE SONOMA COUNTY
CHARTER SELPA**

Any charter school may apply to the Charter SELPA Selection Committee to become a LEA member of the SELPA. Applications must be made to the SELPA on or before the date established by the AU, which generally would be April 1st of the school year preceding the school year in which the Charter LEA anticipates operating as a member within the SELPA. Charter LEA member status will not become effective prior to July 1st of the year in which final approval was granted. Once granted membership, the Charter LEA will participate in the governance of the SELPA in the same manner as all other Charter LEA members in the SELPA. If the Charter has been approved by the State Board of Education the timelines may be waived, in addition, the AU Superintendent can waive the timeline for consideration of a charter school application.

The applicant member will be deemed a member of the SELPA if the Charter SELPA Selection Committee determines that the Charter LEA has met all requirements as specified in this policy and the Local Plan. (The applicant Charter LEA will meet all other requirements, if any, from the California Department of Education and current SELPA to which the LEA belongs.) The SELPA requirements include an agreement to:

- Provide assurances that all eligible individuals with disabilities shall have access to appropriate special education programs and services
- Provide assurances of its knowledge and understanding of applicable special education laws
- Provide assurances that each certificated employee is appropriately credentialed to serve in his/her assignment
- Provide necessary staff as required to meet federal mandates
- Follow all requirements of the SELPA Local Plan
- Utilize SELPA approved forms
- Provide transportation as indicated in the student's IEP
- Provide assurances that the LEA understands its sole legal and financial responsibility to provide appropriate services to eligible student, and that the LEA shall not seek defense or indemnification from the SELPA or SELPA members unless liability is the result of acts or omissions of other agencies, their agents or employees, while performing services under an agreement.

To initiate an application, the interested Charter school must submit a letter of intent to the Sonoma County Charter SELPA Director. They must also submit the following:

- Completed comprehensive application
- Signed assurances
- Fiscal documents
- Detailed plan for service delivery
- One year notice or release from current SELPA

The Sonoma County SELPA Director will review the documents. The review will be provided to the Charter SELPA Selection Committee. This committee is comprised of:

- The Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools
- One Charter CEO selected by CEO Council
- One Charter CEO selected by the Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

The Charter SELPA Selection Committee will meet, review all documents and approve or reject members. The Charter SELPA Selection Committee will inform the CEO Council members of their decision. The SELPA Director shall inform the Charter School of their decision.

Membership may be revoked by the CEO Council if it finds that the Charter LEA did any of the following:

- Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in this policy or the Local Plan
- Failed to meet generally accepted accounting principles, failed to produce required financial information, or engaged in fiscal mismanagement of funds.
- Violated any provision of law applicable to the LEA relating to special education
- Has a history of complaints and non-compliance with CDE

The CEO Council shall examine the pattern of conduct by the LEA in implementing special education laws. The decision to revoke may be based on the ability of the LEA to cure and correct violations and/or the LEA's ability to ensure ongoing, consistent compliance with all applicable special education laws. The Charter LEA will be given notice in writing, and an opportunity to cure and correct the violations cited. The Charter LEA may request a meeting with the CEO Council to appeal and present their case. The decision of the CEO Council shall be final.

Federal Register §300.20(c) Treatment of Charter Schools and their students