

Psychological Services is a dynamic staff of credentialed school psychologists with innovative approaches to providing to the unique needs of the students they support. The complexity of services disseminated to the students, care providers and staff are specialized based upon the age and needs of the targeted population. The school psychologists within the San Joaquin County Office of Education – Special Education Local Plan Area (SJCOE-SELPA) are responsible for services from birth through 22 years of age.

Specialized services provided to the staff, include but are not limited to, infant and toddler developmental evaluations that embrace comprehensive parental interviews with eligibility pronouncements, recommendations for services and instructional methodologies.

Preschool assessments are delineated into four quadrants - fully included children in general education Headstart programs made up of primarily single featured disabilities; special day class children who are co-enrolled into Headstart programs with generally more intensive needs although mainstreaming is based upon the strength of the child; special day class children with significant, broad-based needs with selective mainstreaming; and early intensive behavior treatment, in-home programs where programs are operated by non public agencies with overall supervision and support of SJCOE in collaboration with the local regional center. Each quadrant includes comprehensive background reviews with task analysis of the disseminated information and its correlation to the evaluation, which culminates with the educational benefit components.

Kindergarten through twelve grade evaluations range from the single feature disability to medically fragile students with comprehensive support teams. The SJCOE-SELPA psychologist prioritizes the level of support to be delivered to the student based upon the features constituting the need of the child, parent, and staff. The range of evaluations that can be provided, but not limited to, are for specific learning disability, autism, hearing impairment, mental retardation, other health impaired, multi-handicapped, severe orthopedic impairment, hearing & visual impairment, visual impairment, emotional disturbance, and traumatic brain injury.

The young adult evaluations are set to provide the team with valuable information toward the students' optimum ability to pursue vocational opportunities, leisure pursuits, and transition to independent living.

The SJCOE-SELPA psychologists are well represented on local, county, regional, state and national committees so the current, research-based information can be brought back to SJCOE to provide the most appropriate, dynamic support to the child in program. The SELPA psychologists provide training opportunities to their colleagues in the surrounding districts by providing quarterly roundtables to discuss state of the art pursuits in school psychology. The SELPA Psychological Services sponsor and supervise the Management of Assaultive Behavior bi-monthly trainings in the analysis of preventing and/or intervening in escalating behaviors that can be interpreted as harmful to self and

others. The SELPA psychologists provide parent services by teaming with the SJCOE - Early Childhood Education department and featuring pre-kindergarten parent training for smaller, south county school districts.

The SELPA psychologists provide services to a wide array of programs: county-operated special education, county-operated alternative education, county-operated charter schools, district-operated special education, district-operated charter schools, non public schools, and non public agencies. The SELPA psychologists demonstrate a high caliber of expertise in autism, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, educational regulations and assessment tools. Psychological Services provides a comprehensive lending library for local school district employed, credentialed school psychologists to access evaluative devices not commonly needed in a general education school district but more often used in a specialized population.

For more information contact, Lead School Psychologist, Vince Hernandez @ phone number (209) 468-9285.