



# Solano County SELPA May Newsletter

## Upcoming Events!

**May 1, 2023** - The Solano SELPA Community Advisory Committee will recognize 46 individuals, including community members, staff, and students, for their outstanding service to students with disabilities! The event will be held at the Solano County Office of Education at 5100 Business Center Drive beginning at 3:30.

**May 3, 2023**—The Solano SELPA will take a small group of parents and a student to lobby at the Capitol on Legislative Sharing Day! Our day will begin with an orientation from our legislative advocates and a recognition of Senator Ochoa Bogh, author of the State SELPA Association-sponsored Inclusion Bill, followed by a trip to the Capitol to meet with our legislators.

**June 12-16, 2023**—the Solano SELPA is hosting a trainer certification for Crucial Conversations with registrants from all member LEAs! These participants will then be able to provide local training within their local LEAs to help staff and students navigate difficult situation where opinions vary, and the stakes are high!

**August 1-3, 2023**—The Solano SELPA will host the 5th annual Under the Big Top conference on General and Special Education! This year we are featuring a keynote speaker each day! Registration opens in May, so watch for the announcement!

## The Alternative Pathway to a Diploma

With the passage of the Education Budget Trailer Bill (AB 181), the California legislature created a theoretical Alternative Pathway for students with significant disabilities to earn a high school diploma. However, this new law is not so simple.

With AB 181, the legislature created a new set of Education codes, Section 51225.31, which requires, among other things:

1. IEP teams must advise parents of students before grade 10 of potential eligibility
2. Students must take the California Alternative Assessment (CAA) in grade 11 (which is limited to 1% of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities)
3. Students must complete “state standards aligned coursework” meeting the California statewide minimum coursework requirements; local requirements must be waived

Federal law is clear that states may adopt alternative achievement standards for the most cognitively impaired students. Yet, California has not done so.

Federal law also prohibits developing or using alternative or “modified” achievement standards if the state has not adopted state-wide alternative achievement standards.

What does all this mean?

In practical terms, this law means districts must notify all students in grade 9:

1. who are among the 1% of the most cognitively disabled student taking CA Alternative Assessment
2. they can earn a diploma, but only
3. If they can take and pass all the regular state required coursework without any modifications.

In other words, this law will **require districts to notify parents that there is this option, but it doesn’t really exist!**

It will do nothing but will create confusion at the local level across the state.

Such sweeping policy decisions should not be rolled into massive budget trailer bills. Rather, these initiatives must be properly vetted through the normal legislative process. California citizens deserve better from the administration and legislature.

## May’s Events

Date	Event
5/1	CAC Awards Ceremony
5/3	Legislative Sharing Day
5/12	Special Education Council & Special Education Council +
5/17	Governance and Finance Committee
5/18	Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
5/25	Council of Superintendents (COS)