

## Resources

### COMMUNITY REFERRALS

Your concerns about your child may go beyond school. The Interface 211 Helpline can help you find resources.

- Social/Emotional Issues
  - Ventura County Behavioral Health (866) 998-2243
  - LA County Mental Health (881) 598-6900
  - United Parents (805) 384-1555
- Developmental Disabilities
  - Tri-Counties Regional Center (800) 664-3177 (Ventura County)
  - North LA County Regional Center (818) 778-1900
  - Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center (805) 485-9643
  - Autism Society of Ventura County (805) 496-1632
  - State Council on Developmental Disabilities (408) 324-2106 (Central Coast)
  - State Council on Developmental Disabilities (818) 543-4631 (LA County)
- Hearing Loss
  - Ventura County Office of Education Hearing Conservation (805) 437-1380
- Physical/Health Disabilities
  - California Children Services (CCS) 1-800-781-4449 x4
- Learning Disabilities—national website [www.lidaamerica.org](http://www.lidaamerica.org)

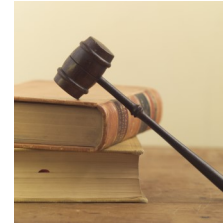
### DIRECTORIES

The Ventura County SELPA has a number of resources with information which might be useful to families. You may download from our website, or request a free copy of the “Parent Guide to Special Education,” “Community Resources for Families of Young Children,” “Community Resource Directory” or “Adult Services Directory,” by calling (805) 437-1560.

## Your Rights

If you would like a copy of your Parent Rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and California Education Code, please call the SELPA Office, or go to our website and click on “For Families/Special Education Parent Rights.” There are “abbreviated” and “complete” versions to choose from.

If you feel you or your child have been discriminated against on the basis of a disability, please write the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, Old Federal Building, Room 239, 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102-4102, or call (800) 421-3481. You may also e-mail [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov).



*Developed and distributed by:*

**Ventura County Special Education  
Local Plan Area (SELPA)  
5100 Adolfo Road  
Camarillo, CA 93012**

Mary E. Samples, Assistant Superintendent  
(805) 437-1560 Fax: (805) 437-1599  
[www.vcselpa.org](http://www.vcselpa.org)

## VENTURA COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA (SELPA)

# ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS IN SCHOOL?



- **Academic**
- **Behavioral**
- **Social**
- **Physical**
- **Communication**

The public school system wants to work with you to help your child succeed. There are a variety of options available.

Students enrolled in private schools can request an assessment for special education from the district in which they reside.

[www.vcselpa.org](http://www.vcselpa.org)

## General Education Prereferral Interventions...

There are numerous options in general education for addressing your child's needs. All California core curricular materials and textbooks have a variety of "differentiation" strategies to address different learning styles. Talk to your child's teacher or counselor about possible strategies or supports.

In addition, all schools have a problem-solving team of educators who meet regularly to discuss strategies for their students who continue to struggle. The team may be called Student Study Team (SST), Intervention Progress Team (IPT), or Professional Learning Community (PLC). These teams assist teachers and counselors by analyzing student performance data and planning needed intervention services for students at the school.

Ask your child's teacher or counselor about a referral to the school's problem-solving team. For more information about Pre-referral Interventions, go to our website "For Families/Resources & Booklet/Rtl Parent Brochure.



## Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act (504/ADA)...

504 and ADA are civil rights laws that guarantee that "no otherwise qualified person shall be excluded solely on the basis of a disability." This means schools must identify students who have disabilities and provide supports and services to ensure these students have the *same opportunity* to access all programs and activities at the school they are qualified for despite the disability.

If your child has a diagnosed disability or you feel your child needs assessment for a disability which impacts school performance, speak to your child's teacher or counselor.

Examples of disabilities which are addressed by 504 plans include ADHD, diabetes, asthma, depression and health-related issues.

Speak to your child's Principal or school psychologist to ask about an evaluation for ADA/504.

### Need Help Deciding How to Start?

If you need help moving ahead, talk to your Principal or district special education department. If you still need help, contact the Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area at (805) 437-1560. They can connect you with professionals who are knowledgeable about special education and/or other parents of children with special needs.

## Special Education...

If you and the school have tried a variety of changes in general education and they are still not effective, the school problem-solving team will make a referral for special education assessment. Or, parents can request an assessment at any time. Be sure to put your request in writing, date it, and note all areas of concern. Give the request to the school principal.

- Within 15 days of your request, you will receive **either**:
  - An Assessment Plan noting areas in which your child will be assessed, - or -
  - A notice that the district declines to assess, with reasons given. You have the right to appeal this decision.
- If you receive the Assessment Plan, you must sign it and return to the school.
- Within 60 days of receipt of the signed Assessment Plan, all assessments will be completed and an Individual Education Program (IEP) meeting will be held to discuss your child's eligibility.
- If your child is eligible, an IEP will be developed. An IEP will include specific goals to address your child's needs, and services to support those goals.

For more information about special education go to our website and click on "For Families/Resources & Booklets" then "Parent Guide to Special Education." Special education services are available from three years old to 22 years of age (or graduation.)