

Resources

COMMUNITY REFERRALS

Your concerns may go beyond the school. They may include housing, counseling, financial problems, support groups, etc. *Interface* (a community agency) has a list of resources in the community that may help your family. Call them at their Helpline number 211 and find out what is available.

RAINBOW CONNECTION

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center offers support and information for families and friends of children with all types of special needs from birth through age three years, as well as people with Developmental Disabilities of all ages. (800) 332-3679.

DIRECTORIES

The Ventura County SELPA has a number of Resource Directories with information which might be useful to families. You may download from our website, or request a free copy of the "504/ADA Handbook," "Parent Guide to Special Education," the "Community Resources for Families of Young Children," "Community Resource Directory" or "Adult Services Directory," by calling (805) 437-1560.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Books, articles and videotapes about children with disabilities are available at the Ventura County SELPA Special Education Library. This library is free and open to all of Ventura County and Las Virgenes Unified School District residents. Open 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Call Shannon Rojas at (805) 384-0205 for more information.

Your Rights

If you would like a copy of your rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, contact the SELPA office at (805) 437-1560 or go to our website and click on "Publications A-Z" then "504 Handbook."

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 the "Special Education Parent Rights" link on the home page. 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 (415) 556-4275 or fax (415) 437-7783.
<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crt-home.html>



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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.

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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 Prereferral Interventions, go to our website and click on "Response to Instruction and Intervention."

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.

For more information about 504, go to our website and click on "Publications A-Z" and "504/ADA Handbook."

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 "Publications A-Z" then "Parent Guide to Special Education." Special education services are available from three years old to 22 (or graduation.)

