

Caseloads for Special Education Providers (SSDA 33d)

Intent of Policy

It is the intent of the Board for the District to develop appropriate limits on the caseloads for special education providers. In setting caseload limits, the District seeks to ensure quality and consistency in its special education programs while also responsibly managing the District's resources.

Caseloads for Special Education Providers

The District shall develop caseload limits for various special education providers.

Special Education Teachers

Caseload limits for special education teachers will be developed based on all of the following:

1. Individual and collective needs of the students;
2. State and federal law;
3. Applicable collective bargaining agreements; and
4. Applicable provisions of the special education local plan;

Language, Speech, and Hearing Specialists

The maximum caseload for language, speech, and hearing specialists in the District shall not exceed 55 students unless the local plan the District participates in specifies a higher caseload and also specifies the reason(s) for having a higher caseload.

Students 3-5 Years of Age

The maximum caseload for the District speech and language specialists providing services exclusively to individuals with exceptional needs, between the ages of three and five years, inclusive, as shall not exceed a count of 40.

Resource Specialists

The "caseload" for resource specialists shall include, but not be limited to, all students for whom the resource specialist performs any of the services described in Education Code Section 56362 and District Policy SSDA 33b, Resource Specialists.

Resource Specialists in the District shall have a caseload of 28 as required by law, District policy, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and any applicable State Board of Education waiver. No resource specialist shall have a caseload which exceeds 28 students.

Resource Specialist Caseload Waivers

The District may request that the State Board of Education (“SBE”) grant a waiver of the maximum resource specialist caseload by following the provisions of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3100.

The District shall only request a waiver when:

1. The resource specialist and his/her bargaining unit, if any, agree to the waiver;
2. The request is related to extraordinary fiscal and/or programmatic conditions which can be addressed by increasing the caseload; and
3. Students served by the affected resource specialists(s) will still receive all the services set forth in their IEP’s.

The maximum caseload of a District resource specialists working under a caseload waiver shall not exceed 32 students.

A caseload waiver shall only be effective for two school years; the year it was requested and one additional year.

When a resource specialist is working under a caseload waiver granted by the SBE, the District will ensure that he/she has the assistance of an instructional aide for at least five hours per day for any time that his/her caseload exceeds the statutory maximum. (Education Code §§ 56362, 56362.1, 56441.7; 5 C.C.R. § 3100; Policy SSSA 33b on Resource Specialists.)