Strategic Consultation for Schools

To

Rosanna Mucetti
Deputy Superintendent
San Leandro Unified School District

Proposal for Special Education study

Background:

Strategic Consultation for Schools provides customized consultation to school districts throughout California in the areas of Systems Design, Curriculum and Instruction, Achievement Monitoring, Response to Intervention and Special Education.

In the area of Special Education, SCFS provides comprehensive studies in fiscal and programmatic efficiency in the area of needs established by the district, county office or SELPA requesting a study. Typical areas can include Fiscal, Program Delivery, Budget Development and Monitoring, Interdepartmental Communication, Organizational Infrastructure for special education and transportation.

Strategic Consultation for Schools, LLC staff are independent consultants with high levels of expertise in special education and SELPA management. All consultants have backgrounds in senior management positions as Administrators/ SELPA Directors in both single district and multidistrict SELPAs.

Services include comprehensive studies in special education, program development, compliance monitoring, job coaching, professional development and direct technical assistance in all aspects of special education.

Consultants Biography

JoAnn Murphy, M. Ed is a specialist in educational programs for students with special needs. Over her 38 year career in public education she has been an educator, SELPA administrator and Executive Director of Special Education for the Poway Unified School District. Ms. Murphy currently serves as a FCMAT consultant (January 2008 - Present) and has completed over 70 FCMAT studies in the field of special education.

Jacqueline Kirk-Martinez, Ed. D is currently in private practice as an Educational Consultant and as a consultant in the FCMAT team. Formerly an Executive Director in Student Support Services for a school district, as well as County Schools, and Coordinator for a SELPA, Jackie has over 30 years of special education experience in public education.



Purpose

The purpose of this study is to examine high cost areas of the special education program that continue to increase the general fund contribution in the district.

I Scope of Work

- Identify areas achieved and not achieved in overall implementation of the Strategic Plan for Special Education in the past three years.

- Compare the costs of nonpublic school placements, use of nonpublic agency services and cost of district programs.

- Review the program elements of preschool and determine areas of greater efficiency:

    - Identify the program delivery options for preschool students and compare to industry standards (the district has concerns that all preschool programs are full time) Is this consistent with preschool industry standards?
    - Do the placement practices in preschool adhere to requirements for least restrictive environment?
    - Examine the identification process for preschool students with autism (Is the district using the appropriate measures for assessment? How does it compare with other districts in identification rate for autism? Is the district over-identifying students with autism?
    - What other program options would be more efficient for the preschool population and decrease impact on the general fund?
    - Is the preschool staffing for the assessment team and programs efficient and within industry standard?

- Review program elements for the Counseling Enriched Program and determine effectiveness and efficiency and make recommendations when appropriate.
    - What is the Counseling Enriched Program?
    - What special education population does it serve?
    - What is the exit rate for students enrolled?
    - Define the range of services provided within the program?
    - What is the role of the psychologist?
    - What mental health services are provided?
    - Examine the Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of mental health services from the county office of education?

- What is the role of the mental health classroom?
- Analyze all resources used to provide and support counseling enriched programs within the district and make recommendations for greater efficiency.
- Compare costs for district versus county program provision.

II Logistics of the study:

1. Tentative Date: February 7 and 8, 2017
2. Two days for field study with two consultants and 5 days remote review, research and writing.
3. Written report within 30 days

Projects Costs

Onsite meetings, review, study: $8,000

Offsite analysis, writing, final report: $10,000

Total study cost : $18,000