



Special Education Committee—Information Update

Meetings and Collaboration:

The Special Education Committee met numerous times in accordance with the “Side Letter Agreement.” The Special Education Committee acknowledges the seriousness of the work needing to be accomplished and met frequently to move work forward. The Special Education Committee met six times during the 2018-19 school year: February 19 and 26, 2018; March 6, 12, and 15, 2018; and May 3, 2018. The committee will continue to meet and collaborate in order to optimize learning environments, safety, and working conditions on behalf of Fresno Unified students and staff.

Accomplishments and Progress:

- ▶ Established five special education priority areas to address over time: (listed in no specific order)
 - ▷ Workload
 - ▷ Caseload
 - ▷ Safety
 - ▷ Curriculum
 - ▷ Communication
- ▶ To support better communication, the Special Education Committee worked collaboratively to provide information regarding:
 - ▷ Common department [goals](#) for special education
 - ▷ Staffing [guidelines](#) for special education classes
 - ▷ Organizational [chart](#) for the department
 - ▷ Special education program [placement](#) by region
 - ▷ [Request](#) for Special Circumstance Instructional Assistance (SCIA)
 - ▷ Adopted and supplemental [curriculum](#)
 - ▷ Collaboration with the “School Climate and Safety Committee”
 - ▷ 2018/19 SPED Committee [Budget](#) Recommendations

Investments made as a Result:

Budget recommendations were presented to the Fresno Unified Board, on behalf of the Special Education Committee, to address five key priorities. Those recommendations included nearly \$5 million and suggested staffing for nearly 60 additional full time employees (FTE). These recommendations, along with recommendations from all other departments across the district, were approved as part of the 2018-19 budget.

Financial Levels of Ongoing Support Totaling more than \$4.8 Million:

- ▶ \$2.1 million 21.5 FTE Special Education Committee
- ▶ \$1.0 million 10.0 FTE Registered nurses
- ▶ \$540,000 4.5 FTE Speech language pathologists (SLP)
- ▶ \$500,000 18.5 FTE Moderate/severe adult transition
- ▶ \$710,000 5.0 FTE School psychologist

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Fresno Unified management committee members:

Co-chair Brian Beck Assistant Superintendent
 Jeanne Butler Manager III
 Julie Wheelock Manager III
 Kimberly Collins Human Resource Administrator
 Susan Kalpakoff Manager III
 Alternate: Michael Fletcher Manager III

Fresno Teachers Association committee members:

Co-chair Carl D’Souza SLP
 Cynda Caskey Teacher
 Rhonda Garner Teacher
 Tamara Smith Teacher
 Xena Wickliffe SLP
 Alternate: Teri Reichert School Nurse