

# FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## DISTRICT COUNTER-PROPOSAL

February 13, 2014

### ARTICLE 49 – SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. When mainstreaming Special Day Class students in grades K-6, District site leaders will attempt to assign students equitably amongst all classes at the appropriate grade level.
  - 1.1 It is the intent of the District to notify the affected unit member(s) prior to assigning students with special needs into the regular classroom.
2. Caseloads will be determined based on student/program needs in accordance with the Education Code sections 56362 – 56362.1.
3. Released time for unit members to conduct IEP meetings shall be made available when it is determined by the Administrator of the Special Education Office or his designee that all other options are unavailable. Conditions which may trigger the use of a substitute are as follows: (1) The teacher must attend an IEP meeting away from the school site and/or (2) The only time the IEP meeting can be scheduled is during the instructional day and class coverage by school personnel is not available.
4. A reasonable effort shall be made to establish special education staffing ratios consistent with the District's staffing practices.
5. The parties acknowledge the importance of constructive dialogue and the respect of professional opinions for all members of the team on all aspects of program delivery.
6. In an effort to improve communication and collaborative problem-solving to include staffing, a special education committee shall be established.
7. Special education classroom teachers will be able to utilize the same school site equipment as general education teachers and will be supported with appropriate instructional materials as aligned with the District's adopted curriculum.
8. Bargaining unit members will be provided opportunity to participate in training programs either prior to or concurrently with the implementation of new instructional and/or assessment programs in either special education or regular education classrooms.
9. Any special education professional serving in an itinerant capacity shall be given appropriate travel time between sites.
10. Any teacher who possesses a Special Education credential and is assigned to teach in the Special Education Program shall be paid his/her per diem rate when providing services during the extended year program [i.e. between the close of one academic year and the

beginning of the succeeding academic year] to a student whose IEP requires extended-year special education services that are comparable in standards, scope and quality to the special education services provided during the regular school year.