

Ontario-Montclair

School District

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent

January 17, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Re: OMSD granted waiver to become a single district Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

As Superintendent of the Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD), I am very proud of the programs and services we provide to meet the diverse needs of the students and families we serve.

I am proud to report that on January 11, 2017, at the regularly scheduled State Board of Education (SBE) meeting, the SBE unanimously accepted the California Department of Education's (CDE) recommendation to approve the District's request and granted a two year approval for the District to operate as a single-district SELPA, with conditions.

As we communicated with you last year, in California all school districts and county school offices are required to belong to a SELPA to address the needs of all children with disabilities. All SELPAs have the same goal: to deliver high quality special education programs and services to students with disabilities in the most efficient and cost effective manner. In general, there are two types of SELPAs:

- Multi-district SELPAs: these SELPAs are comprised of multi-districts serving a region and assist with the management of special education services to the students from each district
- Single-district SELPAs: A single-district SELPA generally operate within its administrative structure, and manage all of the district's special education programs and student needs.

For many years, OMSD has been a part of the West End SELPA (WESELPA), a multi-district SELPA comprised of ten member districts. As we shared last school year, in September 2015, the WESELPA Superintendents' Council voted to terminate OMSD from the WESELPA effective June 30, 2017, unless the District's Board of Trustees voted to approve the revised WESELPA Local Plan prior to December 31, 2015. The Local Plan describes how the SELPA will provide special education services to the students from each district belong to that particular SELPA. The District's Board of Trustees did not approve the revised WESELPA Local Plan by December 31, 2015 due to the Board of Trustees having several concerns regarding the contents of the WESELPA Local Plan and its operation.

Since the District was terminated by the WESELPA Superintendents' Council effective June 30, 2017, the OMSD Board of Trustees directed the OMSD Superintendent's Cabinet to move

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Families of OMSD Students in Special Education Programs

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forward in forming a single-district SELPA to meet the on-going needs of students with special needs.

After a lengthy process, which included a wide range of input from all of our stakeholders and the support of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, in July 2016, OMSD submitted their proposed Local Plan with the required Certification to the California Department of Education (CDE). The CDE denied OMSD's request to become a single-district SELPA due to the District not meeting the specific "size and scope requirements" (K-12 and 30,000 or more pupils). As a result, OMSD submitted a request for a waiver of the size and scope requirement to the CDE to become a single-district SELPA.

We are very proud of the services our District continually provides to students with special needs. As a single-district SELPA, the District provides the full continuum of services to all students with exceptional needs served by OMSD. Additionally, SELPA responsibilities include:

- Ensuring programs/services are available for all children with disabilities
- Curriculum/Program Development
- Support Surrogate Parent Training
- Community Advisory Committee Support
- Management of Information Systems
- Transition Planning for students exiting our District to high school
- Personnel Development
- Interagency Coordination
- Community Awareness
- Program Coordination
- Evaluation

We are confident our district has ample capacity to serve the needs of our students as a single-district SELPA, and we are eager to undertake this important work on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,



James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent