



## KERN COUNTY CONSORTIUM SELPA MODERATE INTERVENTIONS FUNDING GUIDELINES

These funds are restricted for the provision of educationally related mental health services as required by student IEPs. \$1,000,000 from this grant will be made available to districts, LEA charter schools, and the KCSOS Alternative and Special Education Divisions based on the prior year's K-12 ADA at P-2. The underlying principle behind this allocation is the provision of district-level mental health interventions to exceptional students so that they may benefit from their current special education placement and services. Moderate interventions are provided to exceptional students prior to referral for Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS).

LEAs will receive reimbursement for moderate intervention expenditures up to the amount designated twice per year. There are two expenditure-reporting periods for reimbursement: July 1 – December 31 and January 1 – June 30. Unused funds and the remainder of the grant are retained by the SELPA and used for the provision of services to students throughout member districts.

### **Allowable Moderate Interventions**

The IEP team must decide what services are necessary to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to each student with a disability. Services provided to exceptional students may include the following moderate mental health interventions:

- Social Skills Interventions: identifying and expressing emotions, strategies for handling frustration, developing empathy, or friendship skills.
- Mood Regulation Interventions: scaling questions, miracle and exception questions, environmental manipulation, or teacher modeling games.
- Interpersonal Interventions: development of a nurturing and responsive relationship with a responsive school staff member, rapport building activities, counseling/school psychologist time, or power struggle avoidance strategies.

The list of moderate interventions is not limiting and is meant to be a guideline for the provision of evidence-based interventions. It is recognized that the IEP team may recommend moderate interventions that are not identified on the list. Questions regarding the efficacy and appropriateness of unlisted moderate interventions should be directed to the SELPA Behavioral Health Coordinator.

### **Allowable Uses for Moderate Interventions Funding**

The California Department of Education (CDE) has provided guidelines on the use of mental health funds. These funds may be used for the following:

- The salaries of certificated supervisors and administrators; and clerical, technical, and office staff salaries associated with administering related services for students with emotional or behavioral needs.
- The room and board cost of residential placement if it is included in the student's IEP.
- Professional and consulting service (e.g., case management, medical services, day treatment, individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, group rehabilitation, therapeutic behavior services, psychological services, and residential placement) costs for students with emotional or behavioral needs.
- Rental and/or lease of office space to provide professional and consulting services for students with emotional or behavioral needs.

- Transportation costs of student to receive related services from a provider.
- Books and supplies related to providing related services.

### **Unacceptable Expenditures**

The legislature was clear that mental health funds are made available to provide services formerly provided by County Mental Health agencies and the Department of Social Services. The funds cannot be spent on educational services that have historically been provided by districts for students with emotional or behavioral needs.

The following are considered unacceptable expenditures due to the guidance provided by the CDE:

- Drug and alcohol counseling
- Non-specific schoolwide interventions or groups
- Behavioral interventions (Functional Behavior Assessments or Behavior Intervention Plans)
- Behavioral aides
- Professional development expenditures
- Computers, tablets, or other electronic devices

### **Expenditure Reporting and Documentation**

Member districts are responsible for Standardized Account Code Structure (SACS) tracking as well as documentation with regard to the use of moderate interventions funding (Resource 6512). Instructions related to time accounting are contained in SACS Procedure 905. Additional assistance is available to member districts through KCSOS District Advisory staff.

In order to meet CDE reporting requirements, member districts will submit two expenditure reports for any given Fiscal Year to the SELPA Executive Director. All moderate intervention funds must be expended during the current fiscal year.

- The first report will include revenues and expenditures for the period from July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. The first expenditure report is due no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of the same fiscal year (one month after the expenditure period).
- The second report will include revenues and expenditures for the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, through June 30<sup>th</sup>. The second expenditure report is due no later than July 31<sup>st</sup> of the new Fiscal Year (one month after expenditure period).

Member districts are also required to submit backup documentation for each expenditure report that includes the following information. Backup documentation is to be submitted on the SELPA Moderate Interventions Tracking Spreadsheet.

- Names of students that received moderate interventions
- SELPA ID numbers
- Date of birth
- Grade level
- School site
- Primary handicapping condition