



EL DORADO

**CHARTERSELPA**

*Fiscal Update*



## September 2020

### A Word on CALPADS

Fall 1 reporting is right around the corner. We'd like to use this time to reiterate some previous guidance around the importance of CALPADS reporting, especially as it relates to funding:

State-level data is generated from local data systems. As the state continues to build-out and increase its reliance on CALPADS for educational data, effective CALPADS data management at your LEA is increasingly vital. Since CALPADS data is used to determine funding, accurate data and the ability to meet certification deadlines are exceedingly relevant to the fiscal health of your charter school.

Based on last year's Fall 1 submission, LEAs that built cross-departmental data teams, with collaboration between CALPADS data coordinators and special education coordinators, met deadlines earlier and had more time to ensure data accuracy than those that did not. Some LEAs were severely challenged to meet deadlines because siloed data teams worked against each other.

All of this points to the need for a focus from executive leadership on effective planning and management of your internal data functions. FCMAT recommends two benchmarks to strive for to assist with timely CALPADS submissions:

1. Completing all data entry and clearing all input validations within 30 days of the submission start date.
2. Clearing all certification errors at least three weeks prior to the deadline to give staff, both the CALPADS data coordinator and the special education coordinator, ample time for review and work through any necessary corrections.

Leadership and action are needed at the LEA level to foster a local data culture that recognizes the importance of high-quality information for the benefit of students.

### 2020-21 ADA Growth Funding-November 6, 2020

Governor Newsom's proposed 2020-21 state budget "clean-up" bill ([SB 820](#)) passed out of

the Legislature and he is expected to sign it. The bill includes capping growth funding for nonclassroom-based schools and allowing only limited growth for classroom-based schools. The bill establishes enrollment and ADA eligibility tests for classroom-based charter schools to qualify for the limited growth funding. The basics of the eligibility test: An LEA's budget or interim report must "explicitly show growth" of either enrollment or ADA to qualify for growth funding.

If an LEA is qualified for growth funding under the eligibility test, 2020-21 funded ADA will be established as the lesser of:

- The LEA's actual Fall 2020 reported enrollment reduced by statewide average absence factors, or
- If the LEA is eligible based on enrollment growth: projected enrollment in either (1) its most recent budget adopted prior to June 30, 2020 or (2) reflected in its 2019-20 adopted second interim budget, also reduced by the statewide average absence factors.

If the LEA is eligible based on ADA growth: the 2020-21 ADA reflected in either (1) its most recent budget adopted prior to June 30, 2020 or (2) reflected in its 2019-20 adopted second interim budget.

Opponents argued that excluding nonclassroom-based charter schools is counter to parental choice in enrolling their children in school, particularly in light of COVID-19 related distance learning. The Department of Finance responded that because the state is maintaining 2019-20 ADA levels for LEAs that may otherwise face significant enrollment declines, additional deferrals would likely result from the increased costs.

**As a reminder, LEAs that meet the eligibility thresholds that wish to apply for ADA growth must do so by November 6, 2020.** The CDE is to post the application on their website on or before October 2, 2020.

## 2020-21 Budget Advice

We encourage all partners to review the recorded Q&A webinar on the 2020-21 budget for important information on the state budget and impacts on special education funding. The [recording](#) is available on the [Charter SELPA Business page](#).

- 2020-21 Charter Member Rate (State) = \$625.00 per 2020-21 P-2 ADA (before admin fee & set-aside for new charters). 2020-21 P-2 ADA will be equal to 2019-20 P-2 ADA plus any qualified growth funding, as defined in the final budget "clean up" language (See *2020-21 ADA Growth Funding Proposal* above).
- 2020-21 Federal Rate = \$125.00 per 2019-20 Enrollment/Fall 1 (before admin fee)
- ERMHS Level 2 = 80% of the lesser of \$3000/Dec 1 SEIS service count or ERMHS budget (by request)
- ERMHS Level 3 Site Based Therapeutic = 80% of approved budget (by request)
- ERMHS Level 3 NPS = 90% of eligible ERMHS services (by request)

- ERMHS Level 3 RTC = 100% of eligible Room and Board (by request)
- Low Incidence = Up to \$1000 for eligible materials/services per student (may increase upon final funding determination) (by request)

## 2020-21 Cash Advance Application

As a result of the state apportionment process, charters in their first year with the Charter SELPA will not generate state special education funding until February of 2021. Although CDE delays funding, a charter school is still responsible to provide special education services to students.

In order to mitigate the fiscal impact of this delay in first year cash flow, El Dorado Charter SELPA has available a low interest cash advance to charters new to the SELPA in 2020-21.

[Cash Advance Flyer \(for New Partners\)](#)

## Fiscal Committee Webinar: October 20, 10:00 a.m.

The Charter SELPA CEO Council meets twice each year (fall and spring). Fiscal Committee meetings are an opportunity for all Charter SELPA business staff to receive updates from the CEO Council Meetings. These 45-60 minute online meetings are scheduled shortly after each CEO Council Meeting. The meetings provide a quick update on any CEO Council actions that impact the business office, as well as updates related to state, federal, and educationally related mental health funding. All materials are subsequently posted on our website.

[Fall Fiscal Committee Registration](#)

## 2020-21 ERMHS Funding

### LEVEL 2 ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

There are two steps to receiving Level 2 funding with the Charter SELPA. The first step is a review of your ERMHS program that requires the completion and approval of an [Annual Mental Health Plan](#) (AMHP). We have made several updates to the AMHP this year, including the requirement to opt-in/opt-out for both Level 1 and Level 2 funding, and the ability to complete one AMHP for multiple LEA's in the same organization. The AMHP requires a description of your ERMHS program and details on who will be providing services. The AMHP is most often completed by the program team, so fiscal/program communication is essential, as failure to submit an AMHP will eliminate your LEA from ERMHS funding eligibility.

*Because of the opt-in component, we are requesting all LEA's complete the AMHP.*



## **The AMHP is due on November 1, 2020.**

### LEVEL 2 SEIS SERVICE COUNTS

The ERMHS Level 2 funding formula uses two components: your ERMHS budget and a count of eligible mental health services recorded in SEIS for your LEA on December 1, 2020. Three preliminary service counts are sent to your program representative so the data can be reviewed for accuracy prior to the December 1 data pull. The second of these counts will arrive shortly. They will be pulled again in November for your review. The final pull in December determines the service counts for the Level 2 funding formula. It is important that you monitor these counts closely to ensure maximum funding for your program.

### LEVEL 3

The process should be underway to execute new Master Contracts and ISAs for all 2020-21 continuing NPS & NPS/Residential placements. We have made updates to the Level 3 Budget Request and will have it available in the first week of September to submit your request for funding. **Please have requests for continuing placements submitted by October 1, 2020.** Requests for *new* placements should be submitted within 30 days of placement, as per the ERMHS Guidelines. 2020-21 Master Contract and ISA templates are currently available on the website.

## **Low Incidence**

Low incidence funds are available for use on behalf of students certified as having a low incidence primary or secondary disability through the assessment and IEP process. The 2020-21 state budget provides for an increase in Low Incidence revenue to the SELPA, which allows for greater reimbursements to our partners.

The following criteria must exist for reimbursement:

- Student must have a low incidence disability
- The request must meet a minimum of \$600
- The services and/or materials must be necessary for the student to meet their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals and objectives; for the student to access general education; be specialized as it relates to a need or the needs of the low incidence disability; and be indicated in a comprehensive evaluation which is completed by staff or a provider who is credentialed/knowledgeable of the low incidence disability area(s).

The minimum reimbursement amount per Low Incidence claim has been set at \$1,000 for 2020-21. The Low Incidence Reimbursement Request template is not yet available in the Fiscal Portal as we continue to wrap up the 2019-20 reimbursements. You can find additional information on reimbursement requirements in the Low Incidence Guidelines.

## Important Upcoming Dates

**10/7/20** – CEO Council Meeting

**10/9/20** – Cash Advance Applications Due for LEA's new to the SELPA in 20-21

**10/12/20** – Preliminary SEIS Service Counts sent to LEA's

**10/20/20** – Fiscal Committee Webinar

## Handy Links

- [Fiscal Portal](#)

### 2019-20

- [Funding Detail](#)
- [State Cash Flow Projection](#)
- [Federal Cash Flow Projection](#)
- [Final Revenues & Accruals](#)

### 2020-21

- [Funding Detail](#)
- [State Cash Flow Projection](#)
- [Federal Cash Flow Projection](#)
- [Admin Fee Rates](#)
- [Fiscal Calendar](#)

