



Santa Barbara County
Special Education Local Plan Area
A Joint Powers Agency

Date: December 5, 2011
To: SBCSELPA JPA Board
From: Jarice Butterfield, SBCSELPA Director
Re: Local Plan Policy 6208 - Increase in cost limits for Speech and Language Independent Education Evaluations (IEEs) (*First Reading*)

BACKGROUND:

- One of the Speech and Language Specialists on our IEE list has refused to conduct IEEs for the \$1000 cost limitation set by our Local Plan.
- I received a request from Joan Esposito, Advocate, to review the cost limitations to see if \$1,000 is truly reflective of the going rate in our tri-counties area since we last adjusted the fees in 2008.
- I called all speech and language specialists on the list, and they all concurred that \$1,000 is not reflective of what they would currently charge as per the going rate in the area. They all concurred that the going hourly rate is \$125-\$150 per hour. Their recommendations for the total time spent and costs ranged from \$1,200 to \$1,800, with the majority of the recommendations being in the \$1,500 to \$1,800 per IEE (depending on the complexity of the case and number of assessments being administered).
- I met with the LEA business officials and special education directors to seek direction, and they recommend that we increase our speech and language IEE cost limits to \$1,200-\$1,800 depending on the nature of the request and not to exceed \$150 per hour.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$500-\$800 per speech and language IEE assessment to be paid by LEAs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I recommend that the Board approve the increased cost limitation for speech and language IEE assessments, as per Local Plan Policy 6208.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

6000 SPECIAL EDUCATION - INSTRUCTION

6200 ASSESSMENT

6208 Independent Educational Evaluations *(Continued)*

Cost Limitations for Evaluations

The cost of an IEE shall be comparable to those costs that the LEA incurs when it uses its own employees or contractors to perform a similar assessment. Costs include: observations, record review, administration and scoring of tests, report writing, and attendance in person or by phone at an IEP Team meeting. Reimbursement will be in an amount no greater than the actual cost to the parent and will be subject to proof of payment. The following cost limitations have been agreed upon and set forth by the governing (JPA) Board of the Santa Barbara County SELPA:

I.	Academic Achievement	\$ 500.00 Full
II.	Adaptive Behavior	\$ 500.00
III.	Assistive Technology	\$ 800.00
IV.	Autism/Behavior (ABA) (includes observation, data collection, etc.)	\$1,500.00
V.	Autism/Behavior (Full BCBA level FAA behavior analysis) All Costs Inclusive	Up to \$2,500.00
VI.	Auditory Acuity or Perception	\$ 300.00
VII.	CAPD (Central Auditory Processing)	\$1,500.00
VIII.	Cognitive Functioning (depending on the experience and licensure of the professional)	\$1,500.00 - \$3,000.00
IX.	Neuropsychological Assessment (depending on the experience and licensure of the professional)	\$2,500.00 - \$3,500.00
X.	Occupational Therapy (fine/gross motor skills)	Up to \$1,000.00
XI.	DHOH (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)	Up to \$2,500.00
XII.	Speech & Language <i>(depending on level and type of assessment)</i>	\$1,000.00 <u>\$1,200.00 to \$1,800.00</u>
XIII.	Social-emotional	\$ 750.00
XIV.	Visual Processing	\$ 350.00