What is Supporting Innovative Practices (SIP)?

Funded by California Department of Education, Special Education Division



MISSION

We are committed to upholding human dignity by challenging exclusionary practices through systemic change and advocacy, ensuring all students, particularly those with disabilities, have the access, support, and opportunities needed to achieve fair outcomes and a true sense of belonging.

Together we seek to empower each student to be purposeful and reflective, resourceful and authentic and strategic and action-directed within an environment of belonging, community and connection.

Innovate. Elevate. Impact.

VISION

For every student to be educated in an environment that is intentionally designed, equitable and inclusive.

WHAT WE DO

SIP provides technical assistance, within the CA System of Support, in a three-tier system:

Tier 1: Open access to resources - including live/recorded webinars, reference banks and guidance on inclusive practices - designed to build LEA, school and classroom capacity for equity and inclusion.

Tier 2: Ongoing support to grantee - including funding, exclusive professional learning events and coaching/strategic planning - designed to meet their specific needs as they improve outcomes on state performance indicators 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Tier 3: Technical assistance for statewide change as directed by CDE.

SIP Grantee Testimonials about our professional learning events:

"Thank you for the most motivating educational seminar that I have had in a long time and maybe ever!"

"Proud of my district for providing this and feeling and knowing that it is valuable and needed!"

@SIPImpact

@SupportingInnovativePractices

Updated 9/2026

IMPACT

Data indicate that districts who engage consistently with SIP over multiple years see significant positive movement on California's Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) indicators. **Across all SIP grantee districts, the percentage of students with IEPs educated in general education 80% or more of the day (Indicator 5a) rose an average of 8.8 percentage points — from 53.6% to 62.4% — between the year before joining SIP and 2024–25.** Gains grow with time in the project: grantees with **five or more years in SIP have gained an average of 11.0 percentage points (a 21% increase)** on this measure. Every SIP entry cohort has improved on Indicator 5a since joining.



Adapted from Booth and Ainscow Index for Inclusion (https://index-for-inclusion.org/

For all LRE indicators (5a, 5b, and 5c) grantee performance moved in the desired direction:

- 5a — Grantees gained an average of +8.8 points since entering SIP. Gains rise with tenure: +6.6 at 3–4 years, +9.6 at 5–6 years, +11.6 at 7+ years. Improvement is roughly double the statewide pace between 2016 and 2024.
- 5b — general ed less than 40% of the day (lower is better). Grantees with 5+ years reduced 5b by 3.4 points (-16%); since 2016–17, SIP districts fell 4.4 points vs. 1.9 in non-SIP districts.
- 5c — separate settings (lower is better). Grantees with 5+ years reduced separate-setting placements by 0.5 points (-20%).

**SIP grantees are selected by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division. There is not an application process to become a SIP grantee.*

INCLUSION IN ACTION:

INCLUSION ACADEMIES

- Hosted in partnership with System Improvement Leads (SIL) and other members of the Statewide System of Support.
- Events focus on regional collaboration among:
  - LEAs (Local Educational Agencies)
  - School districts
  - County Offices of Education
  - SELPAs (Special Education Local Plan Areas)
- Priority Areas:
  - Ensuring meaningful inclusion for students with disabilities.
  - Addressing ableism.
  - Advancing equity.
  - Fostering belonging through inclusive culture, policies, and practices.
- Academy teams improved on 22 of 24 inclusion organizational practices from the first session to the last.

DEMONSTRATION SITE VISITS

- Showcase effective inclusive practices, closing theory to practice gap.
- Drive meaningful improvements in student outcomes.
- Provide educators with opportunities to:
  - Observe inclusive strategies in action.
  - Connect with peers.
  - Visitors gained on every measure of knowledge and confident in follow-up survey data.

For more information, visit: www.sipimpact.org

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