

# MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES IN THE NORTHGATE FEEDER PATTERN

### MISSION STATEMENT

MDUSD will refine its delivery of special education services to strengthen communication with families, improve assessment of the needs of children, and improve implementation of special education services. The district will provide in-service training to benefit administrators, teachers and assistants to establish a **climate of acceptance** for students with special needs and **to foster integration**.

The Northgate CAPS organization indicates if a Northgate Unified District were to be formed, it would offer Special Education Services equivalent to those of Mt. Diablo Unified. It states that:

- Management of special education services for Northgate students in NUSD would move from MDUSD to Contra Costa County Office of Education SELPA (Special Education Local Planning Area)
  - Covers all students in the County (about 88K) except MDUSD, SRVUSD and WCCUSD.
  - Served over 9,700 students with IEPs (Individualized Education Plans) in 2015-16
- All services are available to NUSD students with IEPs
- Special ed services are mandated by state and federal law, and not subject to district discretion.

### Is this true?

It is true that management of the services for Northgate students would move from MDUSD. They could approach CCSELPA but it is not a foregone conclusion they would become part of the SELPA.

It is true that special education is mandated by state and federal law but the actual programs developed by each district is the responsibility of that district with oversight from SELPA. NUSD would offer programs but they would not be the same if they determined they did not need to be. In a small district it is impractical to offer the breadth of programs offered by a larger district. An example is that MDUSD has four levels of autism programs to differentiate by ability level. In a small district without critical mass, they may only have one or two levels of programming for students with autism or they may choose to send students to neighboring districts or non-public programs out of the Northgate area.

Individual services are dictated by IEP teams, include administrative designees from the district who have the ability to commit district resources. In other words, a district could determine what exact services the student requires so in that regard it is not true that services would look the same.

### What else should we know?

The programs at the five schools that would be part of a Northgate district would be moved to other MDUSD sites, and those students who remain in MDUSD would continue to be able to access them. These include:

- Bancroft Elementary - Mild/Moderate Special Day Class (grades 3-5)
- Valle Verde Elementary – Autism Magnet Program (includes preschool)
- Walnut Acres Elementary – Autism Intensive Program
- Foothill Middle School – Autism Intensive Program, Autism strategic Program, Autism Intensive Program
- Northgate High School - Mild Moderate Special Day Class, Autism Magnet program

Specific to the Autism Magnet Program:

- 13 students are currently in the Autism Magnet Program elsewhere in the district who would move back in and attend school in the new district program rather than their current program.
- 2 currently attend Autism Magnet Programs in the Northgate area who would remain in the new district and be served there rather than in their current program.
- 14 students attend Autism Magnet Program but live elsewhere. These students would have to change schools as the program would be moved to other locations within the district.

## What would be the impact of these changes on students in a Northgate District?

Approximately 200 students reside and attend school in the Northgate area. If the new district could not fund the programs or deemed them unnecessary, the programs would cease to exist for the Northgate district students and those students' programs would change to a program offered in that district or be placed by the new district into programs in other areas.

If a Northgate district were to form, 79 students who live in the area will return from programs located elsewhere in MDUSD due to them not being offered in that area currently. The new district would have to create these programs and students would have to move schools to access them. Some examples include Severe Special Day Class for elementary and middle school students and Mild Moderate Special Day class at middle school. While the students could apply to remain in MDUSD, it would be very challenging for MDUSD to accept all of these students' transfers. There are no Mental Health Programs or Deaf Hard of Hearing Programs in the Northgate area so those students would also be displaced back to a newly-formed, small, district that may not have the programs and/or resources to support them.

Nineteen are non-public and county programs designed to serve students with the most severe disabilities. These programs are very costly to a district and yet a smaller district would likely see these numbers increase due to an inability to create the level of programs needed to serve these students.

A cost estimate to maintain current programs is as shown below. These costs **do not include** speech therapists, psychologists, program specialists, occupational therapists, physical therapists or 1:1 assistance. The new district would also need at least three speech therapists, two psychologists, and other therapists in addition to multiple 1:1 assistants.

Program Type	# of Students	Cost per Student	Classroom Cost
Autism- Magnet Inclusion Program	15	\$40,000	\$600,000.00
Autism-Benchmark Program	2	\$30,000	\$60,000.00
Autism- Strategic Program	8	\$35,000	\$280,000.00
Autism- Intensive Program	2	\$30,000	\$60,000.00
Related Service Only Program	30	\$6,000	\$180,000.00
Resource Program	151	\$4,000	\$604,000.00
Mild Moderate Special Day Class	15	\$22,000	\$330,000.00
Moderate Severe Special Day Class	2	\$22,000	\$44,000.00
Severe Special Day Class	10	\$26,000	\$260,000.00
Home Hospital Program	7	\$10,000	\$70,000.00
Independent Study Program	2	\$10,000	\$20,000.00
Deaf Hard of Hearing Program	1	\$45,000	\$45,000.00
Mental Health Program	5	\$32,000	\$160,000.00
Non Public Schools	16	\$45,000	\$720,000.00
County Office of Education Programs	3	\$47,000	\$141,000.00
Private School Students	12	\$2,000	\$24,000.00
Intensive Speech Preschool	2	\$8,000	\$16,000.00
	283		\$3,614,000.00

For additional information on the impacts of the proposed Northgate District on Special Education Services, please contact:

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