

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-03

**EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
EL DORADO COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA (SELPA)**

**APPROVAL OF BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION PLANS [HUGHES BILL]
MANDATED COST CLAIM SETTLEMENT AND AGREEMENT
TO WAIVE FUTURE CLAIMS**

WHEREAS, the Commission on State Mandates (“the Commission”), in a test claim known as the Behavioral Intervention Plans [Hughes Bill] Mandated Cost Claim, has determined that, since 1993, there are unfunded state mandates exceeding the federal requirements in the following seven (7) components of the Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations (California Education Code section 56523 and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 3001, subdivisions (c), (d), (e), (f), and (aa), and 3052): special education local plan area (“SELPA”) plan requirements, development and implementation of behavioral intervention plans, functional analysis assessments, modifications and contingent behavioral intervention plans, development and implementation of emergency interventions, prohibited behavioral intervention plans, and due process hearings;

WHEREAS, these state mandates remain required components of the Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations;

WHEREAS, final claiming instructions for the Behavioral Intervention Plans Mandated Cost Claim were never adopted by the Commission due to various disputes that arose with the State;

WHEREAS, the State’s Department of Finance disputes that any of the identified Behavioral Intervention Plans Mandated Cost Claim mandates qualify for state reimbursement because it contends they are required by federal law, and therefore the State has filed a lawsuit with the Sacramento Superior Court, case No. 03CS01432, to contest the Commission’s decision in the Behavioral Intervention Plans Mandated Cost Claim;

WHEREAS, the Test Claimants believe that the identified mandates require new programs and increased levels of service in excess of federal law, and are therefore unfunded state mandates, and therefore the Test Claimants oppose the court action filed by the State challenging the Commission’s decision;

WHEREAS, this litigation could thwart resolution of these matters for a number of years;

WHEREAS, to avoid the cost and uncertainty of further litigation, to alleviate the uncertainty regarding the Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations funding, and to expedite the resolution of this long-pending mandate claim, the State and the Test Claimants (“Parties”) have determined to compromise and settle the claims set forth in the Behavioral Intervention Plans Mandated Cost Claim;

WHEREAS, the Parties have negotiated a settlement agreement (“Agreement”), which provides \$520 million as general fund reimbursement for past costs associated with the Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations, allocated as follows:

- \$510 million to school districts based on 2007-08 P-2 average daily attendance (“ADA”) (about \$14.85 per ADA annually for six years, beginning in 2011-12, or for a lesser period at the State’s discretion should the State choose to accelerate payment of such reimbursement);
- \$1.5 million to county offices of education in 2009-10 based on December 2007 county special education pupil count, about \$35.06 per pupil, with no county office of education receiving less than \$5,000;
- \$6 million to SELPAs in 2009-10 based on December 2007 special education pupil count, about \$8.85 per pupil, with no SELPA receiving less than \$10,000; and
- \$2.5 million in 2009-10 for administrative costs incurred in pursuing the Claim;

WHEREAS, the settlement further provides \$65 million as a permanent increase to the AB 602 funding base for special education programs and services beginning in 2009-10, resulting in each SELPA’s funding rate increasing by about \$10.92 per ADA, with this amount increasing by the cost of living adjustment and ADA growth in subsequent years;

WHEREAS, by approving this settlement the El Dorado County SELPA will receive approximately \$25,346.44 in discretionary funding for retroactive reimbursement;

WHEREAS, the El Dorado County SELPA, in exchange for the foregoing financial settlement, must waive its right to file any further mandate claims arising from the Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations, or to benefit from any new Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations claims filed, unless the Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations change;

WHEREAS, if for some reason the settlement process is not completed, the Waiver will not take effect;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the El Dorado County SELPA has reviewed the Notice to LEAs Re: Pending Settlement of the Behavioral Intervention Plans [Hughes Bill] Mandated Cost Claim and the required Waiver; and

WHEREAS, the El Dorado County SELPA administrative staff, having reviewed the terms of the pending settlement, recommends that the Governing Board approve the settlement and agree to waive its rights to file mandated cost claims arising from the Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations in the future or to benefit from such claims unless the Hughes Bill Statute and Regulations change;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Board of the El Dorado County SELPA approves the terms of the pending settlement of the Behavioral Intervention Plans Mandated Cost Claim, agrees to waive its rights regarding claims as set forth in the attached Waiver, and authorizes the COE the Board President and County Superintendent to sign the required Waiver and to deliver it as requested by no later than February 28, 2009, and to complete any other administrative task necessary to effectuate this decision.

Passed and adopted on January 13, 2009, by the El Dorado County Board of Education/El Dorado County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

Ayes: _____

Noes: _____

Absent: _____

Attest:

L. Eugene Rasmussen, President El Dorado County Board of Education

Vicki L. Barber, Ed.D., County Superintendent and Executive Officer
El Dorado County Board of Education/El Dorado County Special Education Local Plan Area
(SELPA)