

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)



FEBRUARY 2026

Celebrating Diversity & Strengths



DISABILITY HIGHLIGHT: ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT

Orthopedic impairment means a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly, impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis), and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

MONTHLY FOCUS:

*Unique Abilities, Unlimited Potential:
Embracing Differences*

DISABILITY RECOGNITION

- Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)
- Low Vision Awareness Month
- National Cancer Prevention Month
- Turner Syndrome Awareness Month

DAYS OF RECOGNITION

- 1st Week in February-White Cane Week, Tinnitus Awareness Week
- February 2-Rheumatoid Awareness Day
- February 4- World Cancer Day
- February 10-International Epilepsy Day
- February 15-International Angelman Day
- February 22-World Encephalitis Day
- February 28- Rare Disease Day

By shifting the conversation from deficits to strengths and celebrating the diverse talents, perspectives, and contributions of individuals with disabilities, we promote a culture of acceptance and understanding.

When we embrace diversity, we recognize that differences are not flaws to be fixed, but a natural and valuable part of the human experience. By promoting a culture of acceptance and understanding, we move beyond "accommodation" and toward true belonging. We aren't just making space; we are actively valuing the different ways people think, move, see, and interact with the world. In the case of orthopedic impairments, this means recognizing that while a student's mobility may require different tools, their capacity for leadership, creativity, and connection is limitless.



POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- "Design & Defiance" Wall of Trailblazers: Focus specifically on individuals with orthopedic impairments and physical disabilities who redesigned the world around them.
- "My Superpower" Student Panel: Where students with visible (physical/orthopedic) and invisible disabilities share their "Specialized Strengths."
- The "Unlimited Potential" Talent Showcase: Transform the traditional talent show into a Multimodal Showcase.
- Peer "Innovation" Partners: Pair students to solve a specific challenge, emphasizing that a nondisabled student and a disabled student together create a stronger, more creative team.
- "Perspectives in Paint" Art Gallery: Students create artwork inspired by sensory experiences or unique vantage points.
- "Architects of My Own Success" Self-Advocacy Lab: Reframe the IEP/504 workshop into a "SuccessLab." Students map out their own "Unlimited Potential" plan, identifying exactly which tools (speech-to-text, unique seating, sensory breaks) unlock their best work.
- "Own Voices" Library Takeover: Curate a library section titled "The Beauty of Differences."

To share your celebration ideas/activities with us, please email: IDEA50@selpa.info



CLICK TO WATCH
A VIDEO "I'M
TYLER...DON'T BE
SURPRISED

"Ability Awareness is simply the skill of recognizing that what someone CAN do is much more important than what they can't do."

-Tyler Greene

STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT HIGHLIGHT

(Click on the pictures to access resources)

EMBRACE ABILITIES



Professional Learning	Location	Date	Time	More Information
Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Community of Practice	Zoom	Thu 10/24 Thu 11/7 Thu 11/14 Thu 11/21	9-10am 9-10am 9-10am 9-10am	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Community of Practice All Registration Link: Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Community of Practice
Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Presentation	Zoom	Thu 10/24	1-2pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Presentation All Registration Link: Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Presentation
Bridging Belonging Culture of Academic Rigor Presentation	Zoom	Thu 10/24	2-3pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Culture of Academic Rigor Presentation All Registration Link: Bridging Belonging Culture of Academic Rigor Presentation
Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting All Students	Zoom	Thu 10/24 Thu 11/7 Thu 11/14 Thu 11/21	3-4pm 3-4pm 3-4pm 3-4pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting All Students All Registration Link: Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting All Students
Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting All Students	Zoom	Thu 10/24 Thu 11/7 Thu 11/14 Thu 11/21	4-5pm 4-5pm 4-5pm 4-5pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting All Students All Registration Link: Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting All Students

State Performance Plan Technical Assistance Project (SPP-TAP)



CELEBRANDO EL 50° ANIVERSARIO DE LA LEY DE EDUCACIÓN PARA INDIVIDUOS CON DISCAPACIDADES (IDEA)



FEBRERO 2026

CELEBRANDO LA DIVERSIDAD Y LAS FORTALEZAS



DESTACADO DE DISCAPACIDAD: DISCAPACIDAD ORTOPÉDICA

La discapacidad ortopédica se entiende como una discapacidad grave que afecta negativamente el desempeño educativo de un niño. El término incluye alteraciones causadas por anomalía congénita, alteraciones causadas por enfermedades (por ejemplo, poliomielitis, tuberculosis ósea), y otras causas (por ejemplo, parálisis cerebral, amputaciones, fracturas o quemaduras que provocan contracturas).

ENFOQUE DEL MES:

Habilidades Únicas, Potencial Ilimitado: Abrazando las Diferencias

MESES DE CONCIENCIACIÓN:

- Mes de Concienciación e Inclusión de la Discapacidad Judía (JDAIM)
- Mes de Concienciación sobre Baja Visión
- Mes Nacional de Prevención del Cáncer
- Mes de Concienciación sobre el Síndrome de Turner

DÍAS DE RECONOCIMIENTO:

- 1.^a semana de febrero – Semana del Bastón Blanco, Semana de Concienciación sobre el Tinnitus
- 2 de febrero – Día de Concienciación sobre la Artritis Reumatoide
- 4 de febrero – Día Mundial contra el Cáncer
- 10 de febrero – Día Internacional de la Epilepsia
- 15 de febrero – Día Internacional de Angelman
- 22 de febrero – Día Mundial de la Encefalitis
- 28 de febrero – Día de las Enfermedades Raras

Al cambiar la conversación de los déficits a las fortalezas y celebrar los diversos talentos, perspectivas y aportes de las personas con discapacidades, promovemos una cultura de aceptación y entendimiento.

Cuando acogemos la diversidad, reconocemos que las diferencias no son fallas que deben corregirse, sino una parte natural y valiosa de la experiencia humana. Al promover una cultura de aceptación y entendimiento, vamos más allá de la “adaptación” y avanzamos hacia un verdadero sentido de pertenencia. No solo estamos creando espacios; estamos valorando activamente las diferentes formas en que las personas piensan, se mueven, ven e interactúan con el mundo. En el caso de las discapacidades ortopédicas, esto significa reconocer que, aunque la movilidad de un estudiante pueda requerir herramientas distintas, su capacidad para liderar, ser creativo y establecer conexiones es ilimitada.



ACTIVIDADES SUGERIDAS

- “Diseño y Desafío” Muro de Pioneros: Enfocado específicamente en personas con discapacidades ortopédicas y físicas que rediseñaron el mundo a su alrededor.
- Panel Estudiantil “Mi Superpoder”: Donde estudiantes con discapacidades visibles (físicas/ortopédicas) e invisibles comparten sus “Fortalezas Especializadas.”
- Exhibición de Talentos “Potencial Ilimitado”: Transforma el tradicional concurso de talentos en una exhibición multimodal.
- Compañeros de “Innovación” entre Pares: Se empareja a estudiantes para resolver un desafío específico, enfatizando que un estudiante sin discapacidad y un estudiante con discapacidad juntos crean un equipo más fuerte y creativo.
- Galería de Arte “Perspectivas en Pintura”: Estudiantes crean obras inspiradas en experiencias sensoriales o puntos de vista únicos.
- Laboratorio de Autoabogacía “Arquitectos de Mi Propio Éxito”: Reformula el taller de IEP/504 en un “Laboratorio del Éxito.” Los estudiantes trazan su propio plan de “Potencial Ilimitado,” identificando exactamente qué herramientas (dictado por voz, asientos adaptados, pausas sensoriales) desbloquean su mejor desempeño.
- Toma de Biblioteca “Voces Propias”: Se selecciona y organiza una sección de la biblioteca titulada “La Belleza de las Diferencias.”

Para compartir sus ideas o actividades de celebración con nosotros, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a: IDEA50@selpa.info



**HAZ CLIC PARA
VER EL VIDEO "I'M
TYLER... DON'T BE
SURPRISED"**

“La conciencia de las habilidades es simplemente la capacidad de reconocer que lo que alguien SÍ puede hacer es mucho más importante que lo que no puede hacer.”

—Tyler Greene

DESTACADO DEL SISTEMA ESTATAL DE APOYO

(Haga clic en las imágenes para acceder a los recursos)

EMBRACEABILITIES



EmbraceAbilities Professional Learning

Year-at-a-Glance
2025-2026

Strengthening Support for Students with Extensive Support Needs (ESN)

The EmbraceAbilities grant project is one of seven Special Education Resource Leads (SERL) within the California Statewide System of Support. Our core focus is on advancing inclusive opportunities for students with extensive support needs by supporting County Offices of Education and Local Educational Agencies in collaboratively building capacity and supporting systems, continuous improvement.

Professional Learning	Location	Date	Time	More Information
Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Community of Practice	Zoom	Feb 10 th Feb 17 th Feb 24 th	9-11am 9-11am 9-11am	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Community of Practice All Registration Link: Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Community of Practice
Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Presentation	Zoom	Feb 10 th	2-3pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive School Culture Presentation
Bridging Belonging Culture of Academic Rigor Presentation	Zoom	Jan 27 th	2-3pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Culture of Academic Rigor Presentation
Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting AEA Students	Zoom New York State Office of Education	Jan 27 th	3-4pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting AEA Students
Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting AEA Students	Zoom New York State Office of Education	Feb 10 th Feb 17 th Feb 24 th	3-4pm 3-4pm 3-4pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting AEA Students
Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting AEA Students Dig deeper into inclusive practices	Zoom	Feb 10 th Feb 17 th Feb 24 th	3-4pm 3-4pm 3-4pm	Plan: Bridging Belonging Inclusive Practices Supporting AEA Students

Join our Mailman List: info@EMBRACE.org

Proyecto de Asistencia Técnica del Plan de Desempeño Estatal (SPP-TAP)

