

Policy 20

Consortium/JPA Formation Standards

Adopted by the Superintendents' Council 02/07/2000
Revised: 06//02/2025

Consortium/JPA Formation Standards

A feasibility study must be conducted and a plan developed and submitted that includes the following components. If the information of the consortium/JPA results in a program transfer as defined by the California Department of Education, a separate program transfer plan must be submitted to the State and Superintendents' Council for approval.

Program

- A commitment to provide programs in the least restrictive environment, as close to home as possible.
- A rationale for the consortium/JPA to provide services to students more effectively than before. If the services create a negative impact on districts, a reasonable plan of declining mitigation over a 3-year period must be included.
- An agreement to make the programs accessible to all districts within the consortium/JPA, the region(s), and the SELPA.
- The provision of a continuum of program options within the SELPA. Programs offered by the consortium/JPA may either increase, reduce or not affect the current options within the SELPA. If options are reduced, the consortium/JPA must provide a plan of mitigation.
- A description of an evaluation plan to be conducted at the end of 3 years.

Finance

Services provided by the consortium/JPA may be neutral in costs, save money, or result in additional costs to other districts. If costs are increased, a reasonable plan of declining mitigation over a 3-year period must be included.

Governance

A written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that meets Federal, State and Local Plan requirements must be developed and reviewed by the Legal Office. The MOU must include timelines for the implementation of the consortium/JPA as well as procedures for dissolution.

- A commitment to operate the consortium/JPA for a minimum of 3 years must be made. If the consortium/JPA wishes to dissolve earlier, the plan of dissolution must be reviewed by the SELPA Advisory Committee (SAC) and adopted by the Superintendents' Council.
- Documentation that all districts within the region(s) have been consulted and involved in the planning process must be verified.

Process for Approval

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The plan for formation/dissolution of a consortium/JPA will be reviewed by the SELPA Advisory Committee for fiscal and program considerations at open, public meetings. Other districts within the region(s) affected by the formation /dissolution of the consortium/JPA may present their positions for consideration. The committees will act in an advisory capacity to the Superintendents' Council and may take a position of endorsement, neutrality or disapproval with respect to the plan.

- The Superintendents' Council will make the final decision regarding the plan for formation or dissolution of the consortium/JPA.
- An appeal process should be developed in the event of disagreements following the Superintendents' Council action.