

Formal Written Correspondence to the Board

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* Subject

Co-taught

* Comments

Dear Members of the Livermore School Board,

I am writing to express my concern about the plan to discontinue the co-taught program at Arroyo Seco Elementary. I am a parent, volunteer, and substitute teacher in the school district. As a frequent substitute at Arroyo Seco, I am well aware of the impact the co-taught program has on the students it serves. I have seen how essential it is to have a strong team in supporting the learning and emotional needs of SPED students at our site. The qualified paraeducators and teachers guide students throughout the entire school day from the moment they step out of their transport vehicles until those same students are helped back into their transport vehicles and given a hearty wave goodbye. The dedication of the teachers and staff in regard to the SPED students at Arroyo Seco is remarkable.

I am very concerned that with the cessation of the co-taught classroom in favor of the learning center model our students, both SPED and general education students, will be left without the support they need to access the necessary content to progress in their education. One of the biggest reasons for this would be the near impossibility of one general education teacher, no matter his or her skill, to address the diverse emotional, behavioral, and educational needs of the wide range of students that will be in a single classroom. I am also concerned with the plan for students to have frequent pullouts from their general education room. When students are pulled out, even when it is to focus on skills they need extra support in, they miss out on valuable classroom learning, and their gaps in learning increase. In a co-taught model, paraeducators and teachers support students during classroom instruction so they can access grade-level content. I have witnessed day after day that SPED students need to take breaks from their classrooms. With the co-taught model, there are paraeducators on hand for these frequent but often unanticipated and highly disruptive emotional and behavioral disturbances.

Please investigate the plan to enact a learning center model in place of the co-taught program at Arroyo Seco School. I care deeply about students and feel that the learning center model will have a damaging effect on their school experience and learning outcomes.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lloyd