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# LEARNING DISABILITY SPECIALIST/COUNSELOR

POSITION JUSTIFICATION



## WHY ITS NEEDED

- Students who are registered with the Disability Resource Center cannot be evaluated for the existence of a learning disability as defined by the CCCCO Learning Disability Eligibility Model.
- Learning Disability research also shows that unless a student has been an English speaker/writer for a minimum of 7 years, LD evaluation testing will not provide a valid diagnosis or cognitive information.
- Students in need of testing either enroll at Skyline or CSM (Must enroll in minimum of 6 units, testing is only available in English) or don't receive LD testing.
- Implications for transfer: CSU's and UC's will not count K-12 LD testing as medical verification of disability.
- Students often receives a lesser number of services.
- Cañada receives reduced categorical funding from Sacramento.

## THE NUMBERS

- 2009-2010: 121 students qualified as LD.
- 2010-2011: **12 students qualified as LD.**
- There has been a corresponding increase in the number of student's counted as "Other".
  - **Resulting in a loss of categorical funding of approx. \$60,000-\$75,000**
- 2012-2013: 218 total DRC students.
- 2013-2014: **252 total DRC students.**
- Fall 2014: Approx. 170 total DRC students.

# HOW IT STRENGTHENS THE DEPARTMENT

- An LD Specialist would be able to assess and diagnose students each semester for the presence of a Learning Disability
- Would then work with these students to develop strategies that take advantage of their strengths so that they can not only be successful students in the class room but productive citizens in our global community.
- Would make the Cañada DRC equitable to our sister colleges Skyline and CSM who both offer LD testing.
- Would provide LD evaluation services to Spanish speaking students that has not previously been available in the district.
- Would also provide 15 hours of academic and disability counseling.

# DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER OFFICE ASSISTANT II

POSITION JUSTIFICATION



## WHY ITS NEEDED

- Restoration of a previously existing 1.0 FTE Classified position
  - Changed to a co-funded position after the 2009 60% cut to DSPS categoricals.

### **Currently**

- .52 DRC
- .48 Health Center/Psych Services
- Increase in Psych services and DRC enrollment and increase in students/faculty accessing Health Center since 2009, work load can no longer be effectively managed by a 1.0 FTE
- DRC has proposed an LD Specialist position which will result in an even greater workload.

## THE NUMBERS

- Skyline DRC: I Full Time Office Assistant II, 456 students
- CSM DRC: I Full Time Office Assistant II and I Full Time Program Assistant, 707 students
- Cañada DRC: .34 (.33 Health Center, .33 Psych Services) Office Assistant II, 256 students
  - Full time equivalent: **756 Students**

## HOW IT STRENGTHENS THE DEPARTMENT

- Increased level of “front desk” services for students with disabilities and mental health needs.
- Increased support to faculty with service provision of test proctoring coordination and administration.
- Ensure continued adherence to ADA, HIPPA, Title V