



Oakland Unified School District

Special Education Reading Clinic

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Oakland Unified School District's Special Education Reading Clinic

Oakland Unified School District's Special Education Reading Clinic was created in 2001 after Programs for Exceptional Children realized that much funding was going to private clinics for more specialized reading instruction. The children being served in these local private clinics had not made significant progress in their school placements, and parents had consequently sued, or threatened to sue, the District for a more effective instructional setting. At that point the most popular private clinic was the Lindamood-Bell Clinic in Berkeley.

The District consequently decided to strike a deal with the Lindamood-Bell Corporation in Santa Barbara and identified a group of special education teachers to be trained in the intervention techniques of Lindamood-Bell. The goal was to create an in-district reading clinic to serve Oakland students who would otherwise be placed in private centers. By the end of 2002, the District had recalled all of its elementary students being served in the private clinic in Berkeley, plus it was able to divert a number of other potentially litigious cases by offering the in-District clinic.

The Reading Clinic operates as a clinic and serves from 1 - 3 children/instructor. The clinic staff keep current of reading research and the techniques that work most effectively with children who have learning disabilities that negatively impact the acquisition of reading skills. Delivery of services is very intensive, structured and systematic.

The Reading Clinic staff has also been actively involved in reading intervention trainings over the years and has actually led trainings of all special education teachers and paraprofessionals and of the school psychologists. They have also been invited to a number of school sites to help train and offer advice to general education teachers.