



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center

May 12 2026

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

VIA ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83692844520?pwd=SyvsO2fBvqakIDxoPtSBdFpL7zAjDt.1>

Meeting ID: 836 9284 4520

Passcode: 846876

Phone: 1 669 444 9171 US

Public Meeting: AB637 Proposal for a waiver of the educational requirements under the California Code of Regulations, waiving the education requirement in Title 17, Section 54342(a)(3) for Adaptive Skills Training (AST) for specified staff under Connections Family Services Vendor # PE2891

On May 12, 2026, a special formal public hearing is being conducted pursuant to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 4669.2 to share a proposal development through consultation and collaboration with the ELARC stakeholder community.

Topic: AB637 Proposal waiving the education requirement in Title 17, Section 54342(a)(3) for Adaptive Skills Training (AST) for specified staff under Connections Family Services Vendor # PE2891

Comment Period

Stakeholder comments on this proposal may be made in writing at any time prior to the close of the public hearing on May 12, 2026, or in oral testimony at this public hearing meeting ELARC shall give serious consideration to all comments received. In addition, ELARC will continue consultation with stakeholders following the formal public hearing process in preparation to submit the proposal to DDS.

Please mail, email or fax your public comment to:

Elizabeth Harrell

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Email: eharrell@elarc.org

Post Date: April 23 , 2026

Background and Proposal

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC) is submitting an AB 637/1543/1106 Waiver Proposal to the Department of the Developmental Services which will allow ELARC to provide a continuum of care for individuals who require intensive support in multiple areas utilizing AST under Connections Family Services(CFS). The Waiver request is to allow 5 CFS staff to continue providing support and services who do not have the educational requirements under Title 17, Section 54342 (a)(3) but have long and extensive experience that exceeds the educational requirement.

ELARC is submitting an AB 637/1543/1106 proposal to waive the educational requirements for AST for bachelor's degrees and to allow five (5) CFS staff to continue to support individuals with exceedingly difficult behavior and medical conditions based on their many years of providing these supports, The five individuals intensive support needs include and are not limited to XIA Gibbs Syndrome, severe developmentally disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, Mitochondrial Disorder, special communications devices, kidney disease/failure, require 1:1 or 2:1 supports on a constant basis, severe aggression, multiple hospitalizations/surgeries, lack of safety awareness, and many other conditions.

These five (5) staff are directly responsible for supporting the five (5) individuals identified as high-risk due to the complexity of their medical, behavioral and mental health needs. All of the staff are supervised Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a master's-level supervisor. All five (5) of these staff receive on-going training and oversight by their supervisors. Under Rate Reform Transition Plan, these five staff could not be included as they did not meet the educational requirements. Removal of these staff would significantly impact on the stability of the individuals supported and possibly lead to regression, increased aggression, disruption of medical care and potential loss of services when faced with the unavailability of other services that can address the five individual's needs.

Under this AB637 Waiver Request, ELARC proposes:

1. These five(5) CFS staff continue providing AST for the five individuals who are currently receiving services
2. All other CFS staff, new and seasoned, will meet the Title 17 educational requirements for AST
3. If/when the five individuals choose another vendor or move to self-determination, the staff will cease to provide services under Connections Family Services under AST.
4. To protect the intensive services of five (5) individuals currently being supported by the five identified staff.
5. The Waiver request is cost neutral as the services are already being funded.
6. The Waiver request meets HCBS freedom of choice assurances.

To meet the needs of the five (5) individuals with intensive support needs within our community, ELARC proposes that an AB 637 waiver of Title 17, Section 54342(a)(3) be approved to allow the five (5) identified Connections Family Services staff, all of whom have decades of experience providing AST services but not the educational degree required, to continue to support the five (5) identified individuals through Connections Family Services – Vendor # PE2891, as long as services are only provided to these five identified individuals.