



Superintendent's Special Education Advisory Council

The Superintendent's Special Education Advisory Council offers recommendations to improve school system programs, initiatives and supports for HCPSS students who receive special education services and their families. Addressing equity, access and program gaps in special education will be a critical focus in order to promote continuous improvement through collaborative processes. Council members will be diverse HCPSS stakeholders with an interest in establishing and refining high quality special education services delivered in a consistent and collaborative manner. The Council will assist the school system and Department of Special Education (DSE) leadership in:

- ✓ Examining current program, services, structures and practices
- ✓ Highlighting areas of success
- ✓ Identifying opportunities for improvement
- ✓ Offering input for program improvement and accountability

In alignment with the **HCPSS Strategic Call to Action**, the Council will support the Superintendent's overarching commitments for our school system by addressing the following:

VALUE – “All staff and stakeholders feel valued and are effective in their roles.”

Facilitate system efforts to ensure that a broad spectrum of voices are included in a supportive dialogue by actively involving parents of students with diverse special education needs and other community members. Students and staff (e.g., teachers, paraprofessionals) will also be included.

CONNECT – “Equity and relationships are at the foundation of all decisions and actions.”

Collaborate with DSE staff to co-plan and co-facilitate timely and effective parent information sessions aligned with stakeholder needs. Anticipate benefits of gathering relevant data and other stakeholder feedback to inform future planning.



EMPOWER – “All practices are responsive, accountable, efficient and student-centered.”

Contribute to the refinement of DSE strategic initiatives and strategies to improve performance outcomes for students receiving special education services and identify other priority areas of focus. Research and provide updates on current needs as well as information about best practices within and outside of HCPSS.

ACHIEVE – “All staff have equitable access to opportunities through professional learning and leadership development.”

Engage with DSE staff in periodic “think tank” and “problem of practice” sessions to raise awareness of trends and issues, participate in solution-focused conversations, and inform decision making. Provide input for local, state and national efforts related to funding or other resource needs to support students with disabilities and their families.

For more information, please contact
Dr. Terri Savage,
Executive Director of Special Education,
at 410-313-6659 or terrell_savage@hcpss.org.