

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS  
2009 and 2010 Work Plan**

**Members:** Shirley Brandman (Chair), Laura Berthiaume, and Phil Kauffman

**Committee Charge:** The Committee on Special Populations is charged specifically with reviewing issues and instructional programs designed to meet the needs of special populations that require special education services, gifted and talented instruction, alternative programs, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services, and multilingual supports.

**Meetings:** Every other month, generally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

**Strategic Plan Reference**

System Goal 1: Ensure success for every student

System Goal 2: Provide an effective instructional program

System Goal 3: Strengthen productive partnerships for education

**Work Plan Aligned with *Our Call to Action*:**

**Committee to Review Annually Generated Reports/Evaluations:**

- Special Education Staffing Plan
- Special Education Continuous Improvement Team Report and Recommendations\*
- Work of the Collaboration Board for Career and Technology Education \*
- ESOL Advisory Committee Recommendations
- Office of School Performance (OSP) Evaluation of Alternative Programs
- Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs/OSP Monitoring of Implementation of Policy IOA, *Gifted and Talented Education* (in coordination with the Policy Committee)

**Focus of Committee Deliberations 2009/2010 (two year work plan):**

**A. Promoting Increased Achievement for all Special Populations**

1. Review effectiveness of services to Multidisciplinary Education Training and Support (METS) students and review of Students Engaged in Pathways to Achievement (SEPA) program
2. Review standards-based curriculum pacing and appropriateness of assessments for special education students
3. Review Accelerated and Enriched Instruction and progress toward rigor for all special populations
4. Review progress of efforts to reduce ineligibility

## **B. Impact of High School Assessments (HSA)/No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Requirements on Special Populations**

1. Review and monitor HSA and Bridge plan/waiver data for special education and ESOL students
2. Review impact of HSA/NCLB on course offerings in alternative placements
3. Review efforts to meet needs of students already exceeding advanced standards

## **C. Removing Barriers to Learning for Special Populations**

1. Review progress on eliminating disproportionate suspension rates for African American, Hispanic and special education students
2. Review Special Education Disproportionality Report
3. Review of truancy/drop out prevention efforts system-wide and in collaboration with other county agencies
4. Continue to monitor progress in employing Universal Design for Learning
5. Review coordination of instruction between alternative placements and home schools

## **D. Monitoring Changing Demographics of Special Populations**

1. Responding to increasing numbers of students along the autism spectrum
2. Review changing demographics in the ESOL community
3. Review demographics of students in alternative placements
4. Review changing trends in central individual education program placements

## **E. Collaboration with other Board of Education Committees:**

1. Joint meeting with the Policy Committee for an update from the Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Advisory Committee (*coordinate work to avoid duplication with Policy Committee*)
2. Collaborate with Strategic Planning Committee – Share any suggestions for additional/alternative data points with respect to academic performance of students in the special populations
3. Collaborate with Communications and Public Engagement Committee to review community outreach efforts with respect to special populations

\* These are Board of Education Advisory Committees