Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)

Annual Report Presentation

May 30, 2026

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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2025-2026 Annual Charge

"The ACSD will examine current practices within FCPS regarding data collection and progress monitoring for students with disabilities and learning differences in the division. Using evidence-based and research-based models, the ACSD will make recommendations for:

- Improving measurable outcomes for students by understanding the source data collected and used by staff to recommend programs and services;
- Monitoring progress on multi-year special education improvement projects; and,
- Empowering families and students to engage more effectively in educational planning using data transparency and interpretation."

Executive Summary

Accountability and Systems Improvement: Intended to promote transparency, shared responsibility, and continuous improvement.	Aligns with providing access to information, and alignment between internal practices and public resources.
Data and Measurements: Focused on how data informs decisions, and identifying patterns of response.	Aligns with the FCPS commitment to using evidence to expand access to high-quality programming and support.
Family and Student Empowerment: Studied data about how families access information and participate in key educational decisions.	Aligns with fostering an empowered, inclusive community by strengthening meaningful engagement and informed decision-making.

Recommendations

Accountability and Systems Improvement

1.1 Present two town halls during the 2026-2027 school year, one for the public and one for staff, for the purpose of discussing the Special Education Enhancement Plan Close-Out report.

1.2 Commission an independent third-party audit of ACSD Annual Reports to evaluate the implementation of committee recommendations over the last 5 years.

1.3 Update the Community Advisory Committee Manual (CACM) to require that staff responses to Annual Reports include names and contact information of staff who can speak with the public about the response.

Recommendations

Accountability and Systems Improvement

(cont'd)

1.4 DSS should implement the CACM requirements for responding to the ACSD annual report, including written response plans, updating the ACSD, and maintaining an ongoing record of actions.

1.5 Revise and expand FCPS' public-facing Special Education Program Descriptions to align with the scope, specificity, and methodologies described in the internal program guidance document of the same name.

1.6 Ensure that when special education reports are provided to the ACSD, linked documents within the reports are also available to the committee.

Recommendations

Data and Measurements

2.1 Ensure that languages supported by official document translation are available and qualified staff can effectively communicate with the student(s) being evaluated.

2.2 Clarify data collected and produced by FCPS related to student suspensions to determine the statistical significance of suspensions for students with disabilities.

2.3 Identify correlations between students not passing SOLs with those who have IEPs or 504 Plans, multilingual learners, MTSS services, and/or are referred for special education eligibility to determine potential patterns of impact.

Recommendations

Data and Measurements

(cont'd)

2.4 Amend score reports for division standardized assessments to clarify that parents have the right to request an evaluation to determine their student's eligibility for special education services.

2.5 Create documentation that ensures IEP teams are considering Assistive Technology (AT) and/or AAC devices and services each time an IEP team develops, reviews, or revises a student's IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan.

2.6 Develop a division-wide method to track the status of requests for AAC devices and services to include the number of requests received, granted, rejected, or waitlisted and the justification for each decision.

Recommendations

Family and Student Empowerment

3.1 Develop and implement a systematic process to collect and analyze data on how transition-related information is shared with families of students with disabilities.

3.2 Collect and report data on family participation in transition-related meetings; including attendance rates, barriers to participation, and availability of interpretation and translation services.

Additional Information

- Follow-Up from 2024-2025 Annual Report (staff-prepared section)
- Proposed ACSD Annual Charge for 2026-2027
- Summary of Public Comments heard by the ACSD
- Interim recommendations sent to the School Board

Questions?

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