

MCCPTA Special Education Committee Work Plan 2006-07

MCCPTA Special Education Committee Members and Contact Information

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Committee Members:

Chairpersons of local PTA Special Education Committees in every school in Montgomery County

Other Contributors:

Handbook development/coordination
MCPS Special Education Department
MCPS Family and Community Partnership

Vision

How does the work of your committee support the objects and mission of PTA and the focus of MCCPTA?

We support and speak on behalf of children with disabilities and their families. When the needs and desired outcomes of MCPS students are discussed at the local, county, state and national level, we raise an awareness of disability issues in the expectation that children with special education needs will be considered in discussions and decisions as a matter of course. Our efforts will help parents and schools better meet the specific needs of children with disabilities, support them appropriately, and integrate them into their school communities seamlessly and

respectfully. We strive to give a continued voice to children with disabilities as well as continued support for their families.

Goals

Give a summary statement of your committee's goals for this year. Consider how you will identify attainment.

We are a resource for parents as they struggle to find a supportive voice to advocate for their children within the school and wider communities. We are a resource for school personnel as they strive to accommodate the needs of individual students in their classrooms and schools. We hope to increase awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of children with disabilities within our schools and communities across the range of disabilities. We provide information and education to parents and school communities through the Special Education Chairpersons of the local PTA organization. We want everyone involved in the education of Montgomery County's children to understand that our most vulnerable students, those with special needs, also require and deserve a world class education. They too deserve the expertise of competent, trained professionals who have high expectations for their students' achievements.

Action Steps

What does your committee plan to do to achieve these goals? Include plans for meetings, mailings, etc., interaction with other MCCPTA committees, MCPS staff you may work with and in what capacity, other county, state or federal agencies, organizations you may contact as part of your action plan.

As each school year ends, our committee starts recruiting Special Education Chairpersons from every school in the county for the following September. Last year we developed a specific listserv for PTA Special Education Chairpersons. This listserv is for communications and information to PTA Special Education Chairs to facilitate our continued outreach and support for children who receive special education services and their families.

Description of Listserv for PTA Special Education Chairs:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PTA_SpecialEducationChairs_of_MC/

PTA Special Education Chairs of Montgomery County, Maryland strive to support families who have children receiving special education services in Montgomery County Public Schools PTA Special Education Chairs partner with other resources in Montgomery County so that programs and services may be accessed to the educational benefit of children with special needs.

A major informational handbook is assembled which includes ideas of how to be an effective chairperson, MCPS organizational charts and descriptions, MCPS and countywide resources, etc. In the fall each chairperson receives a copy of this handbook as a resource for his or her school. Individual members of the executive committee serve on numerous committees at various levels either to stay current on issues in Special Education or to serve in an advisory capacity. This includes, but is not limited to participation on individual school SIP committees, Special Education Staffing Plan Committee, Shared Accountability Advisory Group, Special Education Advisory Committee, MCPS and state curriculum committees and the state committee on the alternative assessment, Alt MSA .

In addition we meet with members of the Board of Education and MCPS, testify in various arenas, and speak and offer support to Special Education Committees at local schools. Throughout the school year the committee conducts five informational meetings on a variety of topics either of a time sensitive nature or of general interest. These meetings are geared toward chairpersons from local PTA Special Education Committees throughout the county, but are of interest to and are open to everyone.

Please Note: All of the training meetings are held from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. at 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850 (Room Locations will be either in Board Room, Auditorium or Cafeteria)

The MCCPTA Special Education Recognition Ceremony is held at a different school venue each year.

The 2006-07 MCCPTA Special Education Committee Countywide Program Plan

October 11, 2006 7:00-9:00 PM-MCCPTA Special Education Committee Update from the Office of MCPS Special Education and Associate Superintendent for the Office of Special Education and Student Services. This annual kick-off meeting for PTA Special Education Chairs offers an opportunity to learn about the latest in MCPS Special Education programs and service delivery models. Kickoff with Dr. Carey Wright, Assoc. Superintendent Office of Special Education and Student Services, Ms. Gwendolyn Mason, Director, Department of Special Education Services, Ms. Vickie Strange-Moscoco, Director, Department of Special Education Operations will be on hand to present information and answer questions. Contact Jennifer Zaranis at 301-503-4087 or via email at jfr4806@juno.com to register or for more information. **Please Note New Location: 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 Carver Education Service Center Auditorium**

October 25, 2006 7:00-9:00 PM-Training/Orientation for New Special Education Chairpersons-New and returning PTA Special Education Chairpersons meet to learn about and refresh ideas for goals for the new school year. Give input as to the important questions that need to be addressed during this year's workshops. The training is open to ALL interested persons; information packets are given to PTA Special Education Chairs to take back to their respective schools. Contact Jennifer Zaranis at 301-503-4087 or jfr4806@juno.com to register or for more information. **Please Note New Location: 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 Carver Education Service Center Auditorium**

November 15, 2006 7:00-9:00 PM- Math Disabilities- Speakers: Daniel B. Berch, PH.D. Director of the Mathematics and Science Cognition and Learning Program, National Institute of Child Health and Development, NIH, Leah Casey Quinn, PhD, Pre-K-12 Mathematics Supervisor ,MCPS and Deborah Taylor, Supervisor of Special Education Instruction, MCPS- Beginning as early as preschool, some students have difficulties learning simple math skills that many take for granted. For example, some young children have difficulty learning number names, counting, and recognizing how many items are in a group. Some of these children continue to demonstrate problems learning math as they proceed through school. In fact, 5% to 8% of school-age children are identified as having a math disability. This program will cover the background of math disabilities and resources in MCPS for addressing it at all levels from pre-school through high school. **Please Note New Location: 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 Carver Education Service Center Room 114 Board Room**

January 31, 2007 7:00-9:00 PM (Snow Date February 21, 2007) *All you need to know about Transitioning from a parent, student, transitioning young adult prospective.* Members from the MCTrans Group, some young adults will speak about Transitioning. Contact Jennifer Zaranis at 301-503-4087 or jfr4806@juno.com to register or for more information **Please Note New Location: 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 Carver Education Service Center Cafeteria**

March 7, 2007 7:00-9:00 PM-. *What is Culturally Sensitive Instruction?* Speakers: MCPS Disproportionality Steering Committee- It is essential that schools recognize, respect and build upon the cultural characteristics and experiences students bring. What we need to do as a community and other related topics. Questions contact Diane Dickson rvdianedickson@yahoo.com Contact Jennifer Zaranis at 301-503-4087 or jfr4806@juno.com to register or for more information. **Please Note New Location: 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 Carver Education Service Center Cafeteria**

March 28, 2007 7:00-9:00 PM *IDEA Regulations Highlights:* What are they and how might they impact our children? Ms. Selene Almazan from the Maryland Coalition of Inclusive Education Inc. will be our guest speaker. The Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education Inc. (MCIE) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the inclusion of students with disabilities in their neighborhood schools. Founded in 1988, MCIE provides a variety of services to families and schools. Our mission is to be the catalyst for meaningful and successful participation of all students in their neighborhood schools, through partnerships, advocacy, professional development, and public education. Contact Jennifer Zaranis at 301-503-4087 or jfr4806@juno.com to register or for more information. **Please Note New Location: 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 Carver Education Service Center Auditorium**

May 7, 2006 7:30 - 9:00 PM (Reception 6:30 - 7:15 PM)-*The MCCPTA Special Education Recognition Ceremony*-The MCCPTA Special Education Committee will recognize the teachers, parents, students and programs that are making a BIG difference in the lives of students with special needs. It's not too early to start preparing those nominations. Ask your school's PTA Special Education Chair for more information or contact Jennifer Zaranis, 301-503-4087 or jfr4806@juno.com to register or for more information.

Expenses

Include costs of mailings, copying, supplies, awards, etc.

There are costs associated with supplies for meetings, mailings to committee chairpersons, and refreshments for the Kick Off meeting and subsequent meetings. A majority of the committee's expenses are associated with the end of the year MCCPTA Special Education Recognition Ceremony.

We estimate a budget of \$1450 will cover all of our costs.