

## **INFORMATION ITEM: ESTABLISHING THE DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:** During the budget discussions in the spring of 2014, the Board asked district administration to establish a Special Education Task Force to take a closer look at the special education program across the district. To that end, Chief Academic Officer Lu Young met with the existing Special Education Advisory Council in August 2014 and proposed working closely with the Advisory Council to launch the new Task Force. The Special Education Advisory Council agreed that the work of the two groups should happen ‘in tandem’ and we plan to conduct monthly meetings of the Special Ed Task Force immediately following the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Council. Meetings will take place, as often as possible, on the second Thursday of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Young proposes a three-pronged charge to the Special Ed Task Force: 1) to review best practice in special education delivery across the district with an emphasis on providing students with the least restrictive environment (LRE); 2) to analyze achievement data for students with disabilities, comparing their performance to that of non-disabled students in the district as well as to the performance of students with disabilities across the state; and, 3) to analyze special education resources to recommend the most effective and efficient use of human and financial resources to better meet the needs of students with disabilities.

All three ‘prongs’ are clearly interrelated and the Task Force will need to take a holistic look at services, achievement, and resources in order to have a complete picture of the state of special education in Fayette County Schools. We also want to spend time looking at model special education programming across the country in an attempt to cast a vision for a world-class special education model for our community.

### **PROPOSAL:**

Item	Amount	Funding Source	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Measurable Expected Impact and Timeline
1. Invite approximately 20 individuals to participate on the FCPS Special Education Task Force including representative community members,	0	N/A	Non-recurring	While we hope to accomplish a great deal of work in the 2014-15 school year, it is likely that the Task Force will need to exist for up to three years in order to accomplish the full charge.

family members, educators, higher education representatives, and students  2. Meet monthly (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.) to address each aspect of the Task Force charge, presenting the Task Force with multiple sources of data for review and analysis.				The Task Force will be able to make data-informed recommendations for the Board's consideration related to each of the three prongs in the charge.
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**STAFF CONTACT:** Lu Young, Chief Academic Officer

**POLICY REFERENCE:** Board Policy 10.2 notes the following as it relates to such ad hoc committees as this Task Force: *From time to time, the Board may appoint committees composed of citizens to advise the Board on specific matters. The Superintendent shall appoint District employees to serve on these committees as necessary. Such committees shall be ad hoc in nature and will serve at the pleasure of the Board. Committees, whether Board-appointed or otherwise, shall include citizen/parent/Equity Council representation whenever possible and appropriate, with the number of representatives to be determined by the originator of the committee and/or at the discretion of the Superintendent or Board.*

*Membership for committees addressing issues that will directly impact families and students shall reflect the make-up of, and diversity within, the school system and community as a whole. Care shall be taken to include representation from all segments of the school system's stakeholders. To promote full participation by committee members, every effort shall be made to schedule meetings at times convenient for parents and other community members and to develop and adhere to a meeting schedule that is time-efficient for members.*

*Committees appointed by the Board shall comply with requirements of the Open Meetings and Open Records Laws.*

**RECOMMENDATION:** No Board Action Required