



Special Education Midyear Review

January 13, 2026



First Semester Areas of Focus

- Providing timely Professional Learning Opportunities for Special Education Staff and Administration focusing on:
 - Referrals
 - Eligibility Process
 - Timelines
- School Resource Officer training completed focusing on what Special Education looks like in ACPS
 - SROs shared they visit with classrooms and have collaborative relationships with all special education teachers (including BASE programs)
 - Follow up with schools for individual student questions and/or plans
- Human Resources compensation study for hard to fill speciality positions (related service providers)
 - In process and almost finalized

Areas of Focus continued

- Division Wide Professional Learning Opportunities:
 - September- Over 20 sessions offered (VA IEP, 504, Behavior, Assessment, CPI, Technology etc)
 - October and November- Making Connections for Classified Staff and Licensed Staff-
 - Sessions included strategies for working in BASE programs, behavior strategies, best practices and strategies for working with students with disabilities, CPI, VA IEP
 - Lead Special Education Monthly Meetings
 - Collaboration amongst schools
 - Clarity and consistency on best practices (specially designed instruction, related services, VA IEP)
- Accessibility Walkthroughs with Building Services- recommendations submitted for areas of need
- Upcoming February professional learning day (both teachers and teaching assistants)

Key Takeaways from surveys

Department of Special Education Key Takeaways and next steps:

- Clarify and Standardize Referral Procedures
 - Partnering with PEATC (Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center) to conduct a workshop for the SEAC committee on referrals and eligibilities (February 2026)
 - Collaborating with the Department of Instruction and Intervention in developing a comprehensive handbook in partnership with our MTSS provider Branching Minds
 - Once the handbook is completed, we will share with SEAC for review
 - Target date for draft is June with implementation in Fall of 2026
- Special Education Website
 - Updating and relaunching website resources in partnership with technology and communications departments
 - Removing the 2010 Sped Handbook link and will repost once handbook is updated
- Continue collaborative work with all stakeholders

Alone we can do so little, together we can
do so much ~Helen Keller