

AACPS SPECIAL ED RELATED BUDGET ISSUES

The County Council needs to know that:

- The students with disabilities in our schools today are far different from those we worked with fifteen years ago – more complex, in need of more related services, more behaviorally involved, more medically challenged
- The number of students requiring a self-contained alternate curriculum or Autism classroom due to their Intellectual Disability or Autism has increased by 49 students in one year. This alone equates to five teachers and five teaching assistants if no students move out of the county
- Being a “compassionate post” means that many students remain with us for their entire educational career because Fort Meade allows soldiers and their families to remain in AACO to provide continuity
- The number of students requiring Occupational Therapy has grown from 1704 to 1940 over the past two years
- The number of students aged birth to three in AACO requiring special education services has grown by 15.2% (832-979) over the past two years
- In some elementary schools, we have 2.0 special educators to cover 7 grade levels (preK-grade 5)
- At the earliest ages, when we have the greatest opportunity in children’s early developmental years, our ability to provide intensive services before the achievement gap is well established, budgetary issues restrain us from doing so.