



OUSD Community Advisory Committee for Special Education End of Year Report 2010-2011

The Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC) is a state-mandated advisory committee charged with advising OUSD on its Special Education Local Plan, providing parent education, encouraging parent and community involvement and participation in the Special Education process and supporting activities on behalf of individuals with special needs. The all-volunteer CAC meets monthly during the school year, is composed of parents, guardians, educators, administrators and community members and currently receives no budgetary support. In 2010-11 the CAC focused on education, advocacy/advice, and expanded outreach.

Education:

- Hosted seven educational presentations including *The IEP Process*, *Collaboration between Medical and Educational Professionals*, and *Stress Management for Families of Children with Special Needs*
- Expanded our wiki (<http://oaklandcac.pbworks.com>) with up-to-date resources, community announcements and useful information not on OUSD's website

Advocacy/Advice:

- Issued a formal Advisory Letter in April 2011 to the Superintendent and OUSD Board of Education advocating for improved hiring, training and support to ensure the most highly qualified teachers for special education. This Letter, a response to ongoing community concerns, can be found on our wiki.
- Developed a near-final Advisory Letter encouraging the District to support and fund CAC outreach/engagement activities to help improve student outcomes.
- Facilitated the startup of OUSD's new Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) in partnership with OUSD's Police Services Chief and Emergency Preparedness Manager. In part a response to the CAC's ongoing advocacy for better emergency planning for special needs students, the EMAC will provide ongoing support to Oakland schools in emergency/disaster planning and preparation and pays special recognition to the need for specialized support and preparedness for our most vulnerable, at-risk populations and to ensure that the needs of special needs students are an integral part of safety planning throughout the District.
- Testified and met with OUSD Administration, Board and staff to advocate on behalf of students with special needs.

Outreach/Engagement:

- Reached new audiences with information about the CAC and our resources including OUSD Special Education staff, the District Advisory Committee, the DAC Parent Conference, the All-City Council, and OUSDs Community Engagement Youth and Family Conferences.
- Partnered with dozens of community-based organizations and experts to support special education students and their families.
- Continued efforts to increase parent/guardian and community engagement and involvement despite setbacks by developing relationships with PTAs, PTOs, SSCs and other site leadership groups to support outreach and to offer site-based support and presentations.

In 2011-2012 the CAC will meet in all three OUSD Regions. We will be listening to the concerns of our community, providing parent/guardian education with our community partners and advising OUSD and Programs for Exceptional Children on all aspects of the Special Education Local Plan. Finally, the CAC will continue to advocate and advise OUSD on how the District's new 5-Year Strategic Plan can best support students with special needs.

Find more information on our wiki: <http://oaklandcac.pbworks.com>. **Contact us or join our email list for meeting announcements and bulletins at** cacokland@gmail.com. Voice messages at 510-879-2708. Write to us at CAC c/o Programs for Exceptional Children, 2850 West Street, Oakland, CA 94608. OUSD website: www.ousd.k12.ca.us/PECCAC.