

My name is Dr. Carey Wright and I am the Associate Superintendent for the Office of Special Education and Student Services for Montgomery County Public Schools.

My goal as the associate superintendent is to ensure that the departments reporting to me are equipped to provide all students within MCPS access to an appropriate education. This includes ensuring that students receive the services to which they are entitled to promote and support their educational growth and development.

My office is responsible for three primary areas as they relate to pre K –12 instruction: Special Education, Student Services, and Alternative Programs. Within the Department of Special Education we work to ensure that students are appropriately identified when educational disabilities exist, educational services are delivered in the least restrictive setting and we maintain compliance with national and state guidelines, when providing services.

The Department of Student Services staffs schools and programs with school guidance counselors, pupil personnel workers and psychologists. This office works with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide appropriate nursing or school health staff. Also included in the Department of Student Services are The Office of Student Affairs, which provides adult leadership to school-based student governments, and the International Student Admissions Office, which facilitates the school enrollment process for students entering MCPS from other countries.

The Department of Alternative Programs meets the needs of a wide variety of populations. Some of the county's school-age students receive their education while attending evening high school, through enrollment in one of our many alternative programs or while on home and hospital teaching. The Department of Alternative Programs also provides adult learners in Montgomery County with the opportunity to participate in creative, personal-growth classes and to improve their English through our adult ESOL classes.

A final service that the Office of Special Education and Student Services provides is Linkages to Learning. Linkages to Learning was established to increase community outreach to students from low socio-economic areas. This service provides medical care within designated schools and coordinates family services to the adult family members of these school communities.

Our overarching goal is to align with the other offices in MCPS to improve student achievement and to ensure that all children will receive the respect, encouragement, and opportunities they need to build the knowledge, skills, and attitude to be successful, contributing members of a global society.

Our major focus this year, as identified in our strategic plan, includes work in the areas of communication, professional development and training, customer service and satisfaction, and productivity and efficiency. Our office goals include:

- Designing a professional development plan that reflects the goals of the organization and the needs of the staff,
- Identifying clear standard practices that are aligned and communicated throughout the organization,
- Implementing best business practices in all areas of organization, and
- Meeting all customer needs and expectations.

We are structured to provide comprehensive, collaborative, and coordinated services to students, staff, parents and communities to ensure that all students acquire the skills essential to academic achievement, career and educational decision-making, and personal and social development.

If you need support from my office please do not hesitate to call or email (Have a visual with the name of each office, the director of each office and the phone number of each office. Include the number of our office)