

FY 2010 QUESTION NUMBER: 15

QUESTION:

Is there a proposal to eliminate the CAPP program? What will replace the program and will the same quality services be provided at the same student to staff ratio? Where will it be located?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: N/A

ANSWER:

There is no proposal to eliminate the Collaborative Autism Preschool Program (CAPP). In FY 2010, MCPS is expanding the number of Pre-K Autism classes by six, creating 36 new spaces to serve students who require these services. By doing so, it will create viable public options and reduce the need for Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams to recommend placements into nonpublic programs. MCPS, through the IEP team process, only considers placing students into Montgomery Primary Achievement Center (MPAC), a nonpublic special education preschool, if all public options have first been considered and ruled out.

The MCPS Pre-K Autism classes provide a quality instructional program, using highly structured research-based instructional methods. Most students who have gone through this program not only successfully articulate to school-based special education programs for kindergarten but also require less 1:1 assistance. The six new classes will be located in the Emory Grove facility, Roscoe Nix Elementary School, and Rosemont Elementary School, and will maintain the current student to staff ratio.