

CAC

Community Advisory Committee for Special Education for the San Francisco Unified School District



Jared, Grade 2



Zoe, Grade 2

Are you

- A parent or caregiver?
- A teacher?
- A service provider?
- An individual concerned with the SFUSD educational services for children with special needs?

Attend monthly CAC meetings and gain valuable information, become part of the process, and make sure your voice is heard. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome everyone concerned with the education of children with special needs.

By becoming involved, you can:

- Learn about programs, services and resources
- Participate in trainings and build advocacy skills
- Raise questions, express concerns and share common issues
- Connect with other parents and professionals
- Increase your knowledge of information related to your child's disability
- Encourage a collaborative atmosphere through team building and sharing of information
- Develop an awareness of constraints on the system including legal and funding mechanisms
- Contribute to more effective programs due to parents and teachers being informed and working collaboratively
- Assist in making decisions that impact Special Education in our District.

The strength of the CAC lies in its legislatively mandated capacity as advisor to the San Francisco Board of Education and Special Education Administration for the development and approval of the Local Plan for Special Education.

Mandated by the California Education Code (Part 30), the CAC provides a platform for communication between those who provide Special Education programs and the families of those who receive Special Education services. The majority of the members must be parents of children with disabilities.

Through attendance at Board of Education meetings and involvement in San Francisco Unified School District committee meetings, CAC members gain access to decision makers and contribute to policy making. Members can learn how the system works, advocate for diverse populations, and make a difference in the Special Education community.

The CAC is an excellent resource for sharing information and ideas. The CAC monitors services in personnel development, program planning and parent and professional training by meeting regularly with Special Education administrators.

What does the CAC do?

- Advises the administration of the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) regarding the development and review of programs and services
- Informs and advises SELPA staff regarding community conditions and goals for individuals with special needs
- Makes recommendations and suggestions for annual priorities to be addressed in the Local Plan
- Assists in parent education and in recruiting parents, volunteers and agencies who may contribute to the implementation of the Local Plan
- Encourages community awareness and involvement in the development and review of the Local Plan
- Supports activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs
- Facilitates communication between schools, parents and community
- Monthly meetings provide a forum for parents to talk with the SELPA Director to express concerns and issues. It also provides a way in which to learn of the program direction, legislation and funding matters.

What are some benefits of being involved with the CAC?

Through regular attendance as a committee member, the CAC can give you the knowledge and skills necessary to become more comfortable in the role as a partner in the educational process for your child. The CAC serves as a way to gain as well as share knowledge, and help develop the best programs for our students.



Daniela, Grade 2

For more information, Please contact us at:

CAC for Special Education

c/o Support for Families, 1663 Mission Street, 7th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103,

Phone: 415-920-5040

<http://www.cacspedsf.org> Or email us at: cacspedsf@gmail.com