

Stakeholder Kick-off Q&A

January 26, 2023

Question: Will the recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Task Force be reviewed and/or considered during this process?

Answer: Yes. PCG submitted a data and document request to FCPS. The document request includes artifacts related to the Blue Ribbon Task Force, such as reports, recommendations, and presentations. PCG will also invite the task force to participate in a focus group.

Question: How many classroom observations do you accomplish during the 3 days on site?

Answer: PCG will be conducting classroom visits January 31 – February 2. During that time, PCG visited nineteen schools and approximately 90 classrooms.

Question: Are you looking to see special education teachers conducting small groups working on students' individual goals during your tour or more of how the students are participating in the general education class?

Answer: During the classroom visits, PCG observed all available educational settings where students with IEPs are provided services, intervention support, and specialized instruction. This included small groups and students with IEPs participating in general education classes.

Question: Can community organizations participate in focus groups, or are they limited to staff and parents?

Answer: Yes, community organizations can participate. PCG will be conducting an initial round of focus groups and interviews February 7-9, 2023, and is also scheduling additional stakeholder groups, including the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, parents of students with IEPs, the Blue Ribbon Task Force, and other stakeholder groups.

Question: How do we sign up to be a part of the focus groups?

Answer: An email was sent to all school-based staff announcing the process for focus group sign-ups. Each group was role specific. PCG identified dates and times for each group, and stakeholders signed up through a Google form. Each group was able to accommodate a maximum of 15 participants. In most instances, everyone who signed up for a focus group was able to participate; however, there were a few groups where demand exceeded available spots. In those instances, PCG submitted invitations to participate to the first fifteen people who signed up. Additionally, PCG may schedule additional school based focus groups for those who expressed interest but are not able to participate due to group capacity limits.

Question: What kind of quantitative data will you be requesting and analyzing?

Answer: PCG submitted a request for a de-identified student-level data file for all students in FCPS. The file includes demographic information for all students (school, grade, race/ethnicity, gender, Free and reduced lunch eligibility, English learner status, and students with individualized education programs (IEP). For students with active IEPs, additional data are requested, such as primary disability type, referral and evaluation data, percentage of the school day spent in the general education setting, and discipline data. PCG also requested data related to instructional models, professional learning, budgeting, staff allocations and formulas, and cost drivers for special education. Additionally, PCG will analyze publicly available data such as current and previous special education annual performance reports, student performance on learning assessments, drop-out rates, and graduation rates. Additional data may be requested as the data collection process moves forward.

Question: Will you provide support after the action plan is developed to ensure implementation?

Answer: As part of the current contract, PCG will facilitate an initial action planning session with the Department of Special Education to unpack the recommendations further and create an initial framework for an action plan. Many of PCG's special education program review clients have contracted with PCG beyond the initial review to continue working with the district to conduct in-depth action plan development as well as providing implementation support and targeted assistance in specific recommendation areas. PCG would welcome the opportunity to continue working with FCPS to help implement the recommendations included in the final report.