**Question 8. The Committee has received public testimony regarding the need for transparency within the DC Public Charter School system regarding students in special education. Since the PCSB collects data regarding the students served in DC public charter schools, what is the board’s plan to share and or publicize school level data?**

OSSE oversees and houses data regarding the compliance of DC public charter schools in serving students with disabilities.  PCSB works closely to obtain information from OSSE, in addition to routinely monitoring attendance and discipline data collected by PCSB from each charter school.

PCSB has in place resources and tools aligned to information obtained through OSSE, which are shared in PCSB’s public reports. The most comprehensive resource is the Special Education Performance Monitoring Tool that captures information about all aspects of the charter schools’ special education services. The monitoring tool gathers data in three ways: PCSB completes a desk audit of available data; charter schools complete a quality assurance review; and PCSB conducts a qualitative site review. This ensures that we are continuously monitoring the schools and the services they provide to special education students, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

In addition, the newly instituted Special Education Audit Policy determines flags that may trigger audits of submitted data. The policy utilizes triggers such as enrollment (inclusive of overrepresentation or underrepresentation), expulsion rates, out-of-school suspension rates, and identified OSSE compliance concerns with IEP timeliness and manifestation hearings. These triggers may be used as evidence for PCSB staff to conduct audits of special education data. Depending on the trigger, the nature of the audit can range from comparing accuracy of data systems to conducting special education desk audits and/or Quality Assurance Reviews. This policy aims to identify and address discriminatory practices that may potentially be occurring against students with disabilities.

Additionally, PCSB is in the planning stage of developing Equity Reports.  These reports will show the performance of students with disabilities as compared to the rest of the student population (proficiency on DC CAS).  These will be public reports, tentatively scheduled for release in summer or fall 2013.

**New Information**

**PCSB is working towards creating its first Equity Reports, to be available in summer 2013.  PCSB is in talks with DCPS to determine if the data will be charter school (school level data) and charter sector only, or if we will be permitted to use their data to show city-wide trends.  Tentatively, these reports will show data on the following indicators:**

**·         In-seat attendance**

**·         Discipline (suspensions and expulsions)**

**·         DC CAS performance by subgroup (including SPED) not available until fall 2013**

**·         Enrollment of students with disabilities**

**·         Midyear withdrawal**

**Again, these particular indicators are tentative.**

**PCSB leadership and staff will be making decisions in upcoming weeks as to whether this will be a pilot (available to schools/ OSSE/ Council only) or whether it will be live and available to the public.  We will also be making decisions in the upcoming weeks as to whether it is available via web only, or print.**