

FY23 Operating Budget | April 19th, 2022

Good Evening Members of the Committee | County Council

My name is Theresa Marajh and I am a proud resident of Montgomery County.

With Note to the Budget increase towards Education, I do hereby request that you Consider allocating more Resources to Special Education

- More Special Education Teachers
- More Speech Language Teachers
- More Training to Teachers around the IEP
- Accountability to Speak with Transparency
- More Parent Input in IEP Meeting
- More advisement to Infants and Toddler programs

I am the mother of a 6 Years Old Autistic girl name Tiffany. Tiffany is a Kindergarten student at Candlewood Elementary School.

Tiffany started to have a Language Delays and Social Emotional delays at 18 months and was later diagnosed with Autism at 3yrs old. I coincidentally found out about Infants and Toddler program when every parent should know about it.

Now that Tiffany is in Kindergarten at Candlewood Elementary school general education setting and with an Individual Education Plan to receive Speech Services of 1 hour per week | Social Emotional Services of 10 hours per week from a Special Education Teacher and many other supports that is implemented daily by a teacher. She is Not receiving her Special Education Services consistently because the Staff is Not consistently implementing her IEP Goals because the Classroom is Crowded and there is a Staffing Challenge and are Not Held Accountable in doing so. I am constantly hearing information that is Contradicting about my daughter's progress.

During the school year, I have requested 2 IEP meetings to discuss Tiffany's progress, during the 1st Meeting which was held on Oct 26th, 2021 – The Speech Pathologist had No Communication Log | Special Education Teacher said that did not know Tiffany | School Counselor was Rude through Gestures. I was Treated with Disrespect because I was asking questions that will hold them Accountable.

For the Second IEP Meeting, it took me 4 emails to get a meeting and I only got a meeting because I had to Copy the School Principal in the email to be able to get a meeting and I had too faced many challenges because of requesting information that is within the best interest of Tiffany's Education.

The school says she is a Leader in her classroom and as much as I would love for her to be a leader, the reality is Tiffany cannot have an age appropriate conversation with peers and are often bullied by kids her own age.

As Communication and Socialization is the key foundations to success for every child and with the proper implementation of my child's IEP, we are setting her up for success throughout her school years.

Thank You for your time