



Sheree Brown-Kaplan is a recognized and respected, long-time advocate for children with disabilities and their parents. Her work with COTS focuses on addressing all barriers to achievement that prevent students with disabilities from obtaining the successful outcomes intended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): further education, employment and independent living.

The mother of two children with disabilities who attend FCPS, Sheree has been active in several local schools as a PTA Special Education Representative and served on the Executive Board of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA) and as both a member and chair of its Special Education Committee. Sheree also served on the school board's state-mandated special education advisory committee, the Advisory Committee on Students with Disabilities.

In recent years, Sheree has advocated for fulfillment of the state-mandated functions of this Advisory Committee and that the school board address the disproportionate discipline of students with disabilities. An acknowledged expert on the intersection between discipline and disability, Sheree was recently appointed to the School Board's Ad Hoc Committee to review the Student Rights and Responsibility Manual.

During 2007-2009, Sheree led community efforts to prevent the erosion of parents' rights in the revision of the Virginia special education regulations, including working in coalition with groups across the state. In 2008, Sheree helped to persuade then-Governor Tim Kaine to retain the Virginia-specific right of parent consent to the termination of special education services.

Sheree is a Northern Virginia native and a graduate of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). She is also a graduate of George Mason University with a degree in history. Sheree has worked in various positions for members of both the US House of Representatives and the Virginia House of Delegates, she has worked at OMB, and after leaving the government, worked in government affairs in the private sector.

She was an At-Large candidate for school board in 2011.