

Date: June 2, 2015  
For ACTION   
For INFORMATION   
Board Agenda: Yes   
No

**FROM:** Ramee Gentry, Chair, and Alexandra Griffin, Incoming Chair, Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC)

**THROUGH:** Frances Donna Brearley, Talented and Gifted Coordinator

**THROUGH:** Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Karen Graf, Chairman, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Proposed 2015-2016 Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee Scope of Work

**BACKGROUND:**

The Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC) has discussed a number of potential items for its scope of work for the 2015-16 academic year. This memo describes some of the items the committee may consider. In addition to the items below, we expect to follow up on the recommendations in our 2014-15 annual report, which will be submitted in the fall of 2015.

***ACPS Strategic Plan 2020***

TAGAC is pleased to see the needs of gifted learners are addressed in a number of ways in the new Strategic Plan. While our work may extend beyond the specific goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, TAGAC commits itself to providing the School Board with our research and analysis of each of the TAG-related items identified in the Strategic Plan.

***Preparation for TAG Program Evaluations***

The Office of Accountability has scheduled a full evaluation of the ACPS TAG program for the 2016-17 School Year. In addition, we are also scheduled for a technical review by VDOE in the fall of 2016. TAGAC looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the Office of Accountability to identify the best measurements to include in this evaluation. For years, TAGAC has called for increased, improved data collection and quantitative and qualitative analysis, and believes the committee's participation in the lead up to these evaluations and reviews will enhance the final products.

***TAG Local Plan review***

If ACPS were to follow its typical timeline, the process of reviewing and adopting a revised Local Plan would occur in SY 2016-17. TAGAC recommends that ACPS delay the revisions to the Local Plan until SY 2017-18, so that the results of the evaluation and the state's technical review can inform the process. TAGAC will continue to monitor the TAG program and advise the School Board if the Committee identifies a need for a revision to the current plan prior to the formal full review of the Local Plan.

### ***Communication***

TAGAC will work with ACPS in its ongoing efforts to enhance communications to ACPS families regarding TAG identification, appeals, delivery of services, and additional opportunities for TAG students. TAGAC hopes to foster improved communication among all TAG stakeholders: students, families, TAG designees, TAG teachers, administrators, and counselors at all grade levels.

### ***Delivery of Services***

#### **Elementary School**

This year will bring the expansion of the Young Scholars program, designed to help increase participation of underrepresented populations at schools with lower than average TAG identification. Increased TAG participation of these subgroups is an important element of the newly adopted Strategic Plan. TAGAC looks forward to following the Young Scholars program throughout the year and reporting to the School Board on its implementation. TAGAC also wants to examine the delivery of services for students who are identified for General Intellectual Ability, as there is some concern that there might be too wide a variation in the delivery of services for these students from school to school.

#### **Middle School**

In April 2015, TAGAC submitted a memo listing recommendations for improving the delivery of services to TAG-identified middle school students. This memo and the ACPS staff response are attached to this Scope of Work. ACPS staff discussed these recommendations at the May 2015 TAGAC meeting, and follow up discussions are scheduled to occur. TAGAC will report back to the School Board on the implementation of these recommendations.

#### **High School**

TAGAC is interested in exploring more ways for students to fulfill the requirements for diploma in a way that still offers them maximum ability to take on the academic challenges they desire. We will also want to hear from TAG high school students about their experience with and access to advanced academic opportunities. Of particular interest is the degree of vertical articulation of services as students move through middle school and high school.

### **IMPACT:**

Our goals include evaluating the delivery of the TAG Local Plan and recommending improvements to better meet the needs of high ability learners.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Alexandra Griffin, TAGAC Chair SY2015-16

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1\_ TAGAC Memo, April 27, 2015 "Recommendations for Improving Delivery of TAG Services at the Middle School Level"
- 2\_ ACPS staff response to TAGAC Memo