

Date: September 24, 2012

For ACTION_____

For INFORMATION___X___

For Agenda: yes__X___

no_____

From: Gregory C. Hutchings Jr., Ed. D., Director of PreK-12 Initiatives
Frances Donna Brearley, Talented and Gifted Coordinator

Through: GwenCarol Holmes, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

Through: Morton Sherman, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

To: The Honorable Sheryl Gorsuch, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: TAG Advisory Committee Annual Report and Suggested Scope of Work 2012-13

BACKGROUND: Each year the Talent and Gifted Advisory Committee submits an annual report summarizing their work from the previous year. In addition, the Board of Education notifies the committee in regards to the scope of work that the committee is requested to address for the coming year. Major accomplishments, noted in the report, from this past year include: 1) advising and assisting in the development of new Local Plan including the review and editing of stakeholder surveys, providing representation on the Steering Committee and providing guidance in the final stages prior to submission, 2) monitoring the implementation of the 2006-10 plan and 3) discussing various options to help identify more underrepresented students. Furthermore, the TAGAC endorsed the following:

- The new approach to identification that streamlines the eligibility determination. It allows identification with fewer and more objective criteria while retaining the option of using other criteria where appropriate;
- Retention of the 4th and 5th grade language arts and math pullout classes. We have heard passionate support for these classes from parents and teachers;
- Revision of the K-3 program to provide more push-in services and clustering TAG students in K-3 homerooms;
- Introduction of a new honors curriculum and TAG clustering in middle school;
- New universal screening in both 1st and 3rd grade; and
- Establishment of a pilot K-3 Talent Pool with the Young Scholars Program in selected schools.

RECOMMENDATION: Important work that could be addressed by the TAG Advisory Committee this coming year include: 1) recruiting wider representation of committee members to ensure overall Division representation, 2) monitoring the implementation of key components of the 2011-16 Local Plan through quarterly reports/presentations from the Department of Curriculum & Instruction including middle school services provided through clustering and the honors curriculum as well as achievement data of all gifted students at all grade levels, 3) provide targeted and deliberate outreach to communities and parents of underrepresented populations for participation in TAG, and 4) coordinate increased parent engagement opportunities for TAG students.

IMPACT: A focus by the TAG Advisory Committee on the above recommendations would result in improved transparency, communication and involvement among the parent community regarding the TAG program.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Greg Hutchings or Donna Brearley