

Date: September 7, 2016

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Clinton Page, Ed.S., Chief Accountability Officer

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

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

TOPIC: Evaluation Timelines for Talented & Gifted and Specialized Instruction

BACKGROUND:

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has made a commitment to every student, parent, and community member that “*Every Student Succeeds.*” A critical component of ensuring that ACPS is offering the highest quality services to each student is through structured reviews of essential programs. The principal goal in these evaluations is to take a critical look at the current environment and determine what is working well, what requires revision, and what explicit actions are necessary for the division to continue to improve outcomes for every student.

During the 2016-2017 school year ACPS will begin evaluations in the areas of Talented & Gifted (TAG) and Specialized Instruction services. The TAG evaluation will investigate progress made on key initiatives identified in the 2012-2016 Local TAG Plan with findings then leveraged by the division and stakeholders to create a new Local TAG Plan. The Specialized Instruction evaluation will delve into the quality of services offered in areas critical to accelerating student outcomes. The findings from the evaluation will be used to make any necessary adjustments to the Specialized Instruction Plan to ensure strong alignment to any identified division areas of need. Areas of potential investigation within Specialized Instruction include: instructional delivery and services, compliance, and formative implementation results of the Specialized Instruction Plan. Given the broad scope, time, and resources available the division will work with stakeholders in the coming months to prioritize areas of focus for the Specialized Instruction evaluation.

Over the coming months stakeholders will be actively engaged in a myriad of activities to inform the evaluation work within these two critical programs. Updates regarding progress during the course of each evaluation will be supplied to the Board as necessary. Ultimately, the goal of each evaluation is to provide high-quality, transparent, and valid findings that allow the division to make informed decisions on actions required to continue to improve outcomes for all students within ACPS.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the Board review the purpose and evaluation timelines for Talented & Gifted and Specialized Instruction evaluations.

IMPACT:

The goal of each evaluation is to provide high-quality, transparent, and valid findings that allow the division to make informed decisions on actions required to continue to improve outcomes for all students within ACPS.

ATTACHMENTS: (1) *Evaluation Timelines for Talented & Gifted and Specialized Instruction PowerPoint*

CONTACT PERSON:

Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer