

The Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC) recommends that Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) adopt an expanded communication strategy to share information regarding the school system's K-12 Talented and Gifted (TAG) program. We believe that the communication strategy should mirror that of the full breadth of the K-12 TAG program. ACPS should start communication about the TAG program at the point of first contact whenever, wherever, and however the student enters the school system. TAGAC is aware that there are potential changes under consideration by the state of Virginia that will impact the TAG curriculum in the near future. We have included recommendations on how these changes are communicated to ACPS students and their families, if they are in fact implemented.

First, TAGAC recommends that ACPS expand their communication strategy regarding how it shares information with ACPS students and families about the K-12 TAG program and offerings. The K-12 TAG program includes the following components:

- General Intellectual Ability, or GIA, Program (Available to students K-5)
- Subject Academic Aptitude, or SSA, Program: Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies (Availability to students in Elementary School, Grades 4 and 5)
- Young Scholars (Available to students K-5)

There are other components not formally included in the TAG program that are relevant to include in the communication strategy as well:

- Whole-Grade Acceleration
- Single-Subject Acceleration
- Advancement Via Individual Determination, or AVID, Program (Available to Grades 6-12)

Information regarding referrals and the identification process for each of these components should be communicated to all students and families as early as Kindergarten registration with special emphasis during the universal screening years of First Grade, Third Grade, and Fifth Grade. Families should have a strong understanding of the resources available to them through the program.

ACPS established many new channels for communication as a result of Virtual Plus. TAGAC strongly recommends using this foundation and these methods to communicate information about the K-12 TAG program. Specific examples of new communication opportunities include:

- Providing families with information about the K-12 TAG program and the ACPS program of studies during the Kindergarten and School registration process
- Creating a "How to Create a Self-Referral" video for families in multiple languages detailing identification, referral and review process
- Creating "Day in the Life" videos to highlight the career paths available as a part of the High School Project and map them to specific courses
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- Hosting webinars about the K-12 TAG program that mirror the current process of the TAG informational meeting often presented during Back to School Night

While the message can be tailored to fit the audience, TAGAC would like to emphasize that ACPS consider shifting their message to include the overall K-12 TAG program to increase the exposure for

families to the comprehensive experience. For example, a presentation for an elementary school Back to School Night should emphasize the components of the TAG program for Grades K-5 and it should also mention how those experiences will translate to middle and high school as well. Upper grade presentation such as middle school should emphasize how the career tracks support TAG differentiation.

Finally, if the changes to the TAG curriculum currently under consideration by the state of Virginia are implemented, TAGAC recommends the following channels to communicate those changes to families:

- Community meetings for the overall program changes with a specific sub-topic on impacts to groups that receive push in or separate services.
- Creating a video to walk through the specific changes to the curriculum to the entire community and sub-topics impacts to groups that receive push in or separate services. Additional separate videos on impacts to these groups may also be suggested. All of these outreach curriculum presentation should be presented in multiple languages
- Sharing the link to the video on all of ACPS's social media accounts
- Including changes to the program, as well as the link to the video, in the weekly ACPS Express email and weekly email updates from individual school principals

Lastly content posted to the website must be kept current. As the program changes outreach efforts must be kept current and old/outdated information should be removed in a timely manner.