

BOARD BRIEF

Date: November 22, 2019

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: F. Donna Brearley, Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program Coordinator

THROUGH: Terri Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Talented and Gifted Program Update

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

Goal 3: An Exemplary Staff

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

Focus Area 6: Audit Updates

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Academics

SUMMARY:

The Talented and Gifted Office continues progress towards addressing the recommendations from the 2017 program evaluation. The last update was provided to the School Board on June 20, 2019. Areas of priority focus this year include improved identification methodology, enhanced curriculum design, delivery and training with a professional development emphasis on differentiation. The current status of each area of focus is in the following table.

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Area of Focus	Action	Status	Target Completion Date
Identification	Establish a limited referral period to 1 st quarter (exception- 1 st grade)	Completed	November 4, 2019
	Create an alternative pathway for EL students (this includes the use of culturally sensitive different observation scales and the creation of a Talent Search Team)	In Progress	March 15, 2020
Young Scholars	Expand YS to Jefferson-Houston and Matthew Maury	In Progress	June 19, 2020
	Provide continuous monitoring and improvement plans for all Young Scholars Schools (YS Action Plan Document)	In Progress	June 19, 2020
	Build school-based leadership capacity in all YS Schools	In Progress	June 19, 2020
	Expand YS to George Mason, LCTA, Tucker, Charles Barrett in 2020-2021	In Progress	June 15, 2021
GIA/Young Scholars Curriculum	Align Curriculum Framework design to district scope and sequence in all content areas	Completed	October 15, 2019
	Provide access via Canvas to flexible curriculum intended for enrichment and differentiation	In Progress	July 1, 2020
	Provide instructional resources to GIA and Young Scholars teachers (Jacob's Ladder, M2/M3, Differentiated Curriculum and Project Based Learning Lessons)	In Progress	June 19, 2020
	Offer professional development to staff members at all YS schools each year (YS Orientation, YS Identification, GIA/YS instructional resources and Differentiation)	In Progress	June 19, 2020
	Add Virtual/Technology-based Professional Development Options to Canvas	In Progress	June 19, 2020
	Cluster GIA/YS students at all schools	Completed	October 1, 2019

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Area of Focus	Action	Status	Target Completion Date
MS Honors ELA Curriculum	Arrange for an Adolescent literacy expert to visit classes, coach, model and recommend course enhancements	In Progress	June 19, 2020
Professional Development	Establish a gifted endorsement cohort	In Progress	Cohort #6 - May 29, 2020, Cohort #7 - May 28, 2021
	Set up a local gifted endorsement series (University partner is being sought)	In Progress	June 19, 2020
	Execute a Differentiation Initiative with consultant presentations to principals, teachers, elementary teams of general education teachers, and visits to elementary general education and TAG classrooms.	In Progress	January 10, 2020
	Develop a workshop series of Honors differentiation strategies	Completed	September 15, 2019
Service Delivery	Determine future delivery of TAG English Language Arts either in the regular classroom or as a separate service with a TAG teacher.	In Progress	June 19, 2020

BACKGROUND:

As required by the 2012-2016 Local Plan for Gifted Education, a full program evaluation by an outside, independent expert in the field of gifted education was commissioned and executed during SY 16. The ACPS Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program was evaluated against national and state standards, best practices in identification and service delivery options. The results of the evaluation were presented to the School Board on October 12, 2017. Recommendations and commendations addressed areas which were deemed to be of high quality and those which needed improvement. Specific suggestions and resources for improvement were provided in the evaluation for each of the recommendations. Work towards implementation of these recommendations has been ongoing and will continue. These periodic updates are intended to track progress of implementation.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the update as presented.

IMPACT:

The Talented and Gifted program improvements will create a more rigorous, consistent and equitable program.

CONTACT:

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