

Date: June 20, 2019

For ACTION: X

For INFORMATION: X

Board Agenda: YES X

NO

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Donna Brearley, Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: 2019-2020 Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program Update

BACKGROUND

The Virginia Department of Education, 8 VAC 20-40-10 et seq., requires each school division to develop and approve a local plan for gifted education. The most recent ACPS Local Plan for the Gifted 2012-2017 was approved in June 2012. With a goal of addressing equity, a full revision of the current plan will be developed and implemented over a three year period. This will ensure that sufficient support and professional development can be provided to address changes in the identification process proposed as well as any resulting changes in service delivery.

SUMMARY

The attached presentation will provide an update regarding the proposed changes for the 2019-2020 school year. Referrals, identification, and professional development are the main focus areas. Enhancements to these processes will include: 1) a more streamlined referral window, limited to the first quarter of the school year so placements can be made early; 2) the use of culturally sensitive observational tools and assessments designed to measure non-English speaking students growth in acquiring English; 3) the launching of a Talent Search Team to provide critical thinking lessons to all third graders multiple times a year in order to find talent through non-testing approaches; and 4) a focus on professional development which includes a local gifted endorsement option and elementary differentiation skills for general education teachers with the support of an expert consultant on this topic. In addition, during this upcoming year, ACPS will be collecting data and evaluating the current fourth and fifth grade English/Language Arts pull-out (separate service) model with various push-in models.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the current status of the TAG program revision.

ATTACHMENT

1. 190620_PowerPoint_Talented_and_Gifted_Program_Update

CONTACT PERSONS

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