

**Eloise Schlieter**  
**Public Comments**  
**June 6, 2019**  
**School Board Meeting**

My name is Eloise Schlieter and I'm in 4th grade at Matthew Maury Elementary School. I am receiving TAG services for math and language arts. My mom shared that ACPS is considering changes to the current TAG language arts program. We were here tonight already because my artwork was being recognized. Thank you for that opportunity.

I would like to share with you about my experience being recognized for TAG services and in the TAG classrooms. This fall I began the year receiving TAG services for language arts but not for Math. My mom and I discussed doing additional assessments last spring to see if TAG math was the right fit but we decided against it. I loved (and still do) my 4<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher Ms. Forbes. She is wonderful but she had never taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade math before. Almost immediately I began telling my mom that the class was too easy and I wasn't learning any new skills.

There were 25 or so students in that class for my teacher to serve. Over the course of the fall, I was routinely one of the first students to complete the in-class assignments and I always completed all of the homework packet. We were only required to complete 5 or 6 out of 10 assignment options. But still I was not being challenged in math. My mom tried to talk to the teacher but it didn't change. I came home after winter break and told my mom again that I was not being challenged in Math. She set up a meeting with teacher and they both agreed that this math class was not the right fit. Over the following several weeks the teacher helped me to gather the necessary materials and prepare for the TAG assessment. I transferred into the TAG Math class in March. I loved my math teacher but I just wasn't able to receive the correct level of challenge in her classroom.

My experience in TAG language arts has been great. Interestingly enough, there was a group of about 5 or 6 students in TAG language arts and in the regular math class. As I talked with those friends, it turns out that none of them were really being challenged in math. In my language arts class this year, we have learned new writing skills as we reflect and write about an assigned text.

This spring we have begun participating in Socratic seminars. The entire class reads the same text and then engages in a discussion with the teacher moderating and students having various roles in the discussion. We have also begun writing specific format essays – compare and contrast, etc. We also participate in wordly wise. We are learning to use more advanced vocabulary to apply in reading, writing and in discussions. We also work at a faster pace and don't do word study.

Both TAG Math and TAG language arts in their current format have been positive experiences for me and ones I hope my little sister will be able to experience as well.

Thank you for your time and listening to my experience as you consider changes to the TAG Language Arts program in the future.