

BOARD MEMO

Date: January 19, 2023
For ACTION
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support
Megan Tempel-Milner, Ph.D., Director of Gifted and Advanced Academic Programs

THROUGH: Wendy González, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Talented and Gifted (TAG) Updates and Local Plan

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2022–2023 FOCUS AREA:

Talented and Gifted
Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Equitable TAG Identification of Black and Hispanic Students

SUMMARY:

- The Talented and Gifted (TAG) office has implemented actions based on the recommendations of the Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC) in the 2021-2022 TAGAC End-of-Year Report
- The Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Local Plan for the Gifted continues to be revised this school year, with a goal to adopt the new plan in May 2023. In the most recent drafting, the committees have worked on the following:
 - Suggested Goals
 - Two policy updates connected to the Local Plan for the Gifted
 - A focus on professional learning support, curriculum development, and instructional delivery through staffing requests.

BOARD MEMO

BACKGROUND:

Updates from the TAGAC's End-of-Year Report

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC) focused on the areas of identification, staffing, curriculum and instruction, and the Local Plan for the Gifted. The scope of work during the 2021–2022 school year continued its goal to improve the response to academic and social-emotional needs of TAG students in ACPS. ACPS has implemented a number of recommendations including expanding the automatic screening process to include all Young Scholars in grades K-5, using a more inclusive approach to an observation scale for screening, advocating for a database system to store and analyze data to make data-driven decisions, developing a curriculum resource board to align gifted curriculum with learning objectives required by the state, and updating the local plan.

The Local Plan

Points made in TAGAC's full end-of-year report and additional discussions with stakeholders provide the catalyst and support for a revised Local Plan for TAG. Our top priority for the 2022–2023 school year is to continue to revise our Local Plan with School Board approval in May 2023. The work on the Local Plan includes steering committees to guide goals and actions for the plan. The steering committee members include school administrators from the elementary and secondary levels, central office administrators, central office curriculum specialists, TAG designees, TAG teachers, classroom teachers, and community members. The TAG office is also working closely with the Policy & Board Initiatives office and the Equity Review Board to align policy and equitable practices with the updated Local Plan. As a division and committee that needs to keep equity as a top priority, we must take courageous steps to ensure we use identification procedures and instructional services that are culturally, linguistically, and economically unbiased identification procedures and instructional services.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo.

IMPACT:

The points in this brief provide information about the systemic goal to revise the Local Plan and the updates to current TAG processes and services as recommended by the Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

230119_Board_Presentation_TAG_Updates

REFERENCES:

None

CONTACT:

- Megan Tempel-Milner, Ph.D., Director of Gifted and Advanced Academic Programs, megan.tempel-milner@acps.k12.va.us