

DRAFT

Date: 11-March-2019

For: ACTION___

For: INFORMATION ___

Board Agenda: Yes ___ No ___

FROM: Nicholas Miller, Chair, Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee
(TAGAC)

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

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

TOPIC: TAGAC Elementary School Response to Proposed Local Plan,
Executive Summary

SUMMARY:

The Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC) has reviewed the June 20, 2018 *Gifted Program Recommendations* document put forth by the Elementary School principals as a part of the work of the Steering Committee that will review and update the Local Plan. In response to the document, the TAGAC has prepared Elementary School and Middle School position papers. This is an executive summary of the TAGAC's recommendations regarding the ACPS TAG program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

1. As stated in the TAG Evaluation Report, "Design and develop a General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) program around advanced content at K-3

level, consistent with the 4-5 curriculum structure and delivered to clusters of students in the classroom.”

2. Maintain the current delivery method of pull-out/self-contained services for 4th and 5th grade TAG ELA.
3. As stated in the TAG Evaluation Report, “Revamp the middle school TAG Program so that it includes opportunities for an accelerated ELA, science, and social studies program beyond honors which currently fails to provide differentiated curriculum or instruction. Develop an interdisciplinary option in the humanities and STEM areas for students who have aptitudes and interests in the underlying areas of learning.”
4. Complete roll-out of the Young Scholars program to all ACPS elementary schools and move the Young Scholars program fully into the ACPS TAG program.
5. Improve training for general education teachers, specifically on identifying and working with TAG students and Young Scholars, and in differentiating for all students.
6. Implement a universal test in the 5th grade to help identify more TAG students for Middle School.
7. ACPS Counseling should be equipped to address the unique needs of TAG students from a social and emotional perspective, paying specific attention to twice exceptional students, as well as provide academic advising.
8. Devise a rigorous assessment plan to measure the effectiveness of gifted instruction. The plan should allow for ongoing improvements, and should be distinct from test score monitoring.

IMPACT:

Our goals include participating in the on-going evaluation of the delivery of the **TAG Local Plan** and recommending appropriate revisions to ensure implementation of the recommendations from the external audit obtained by the School Board and the assessments from TAGAC’s internal examination of the TAG programs throughout the school system.

CONTACT PERSON: Nicholas Miller, TAGAC Chair SY2018-19

Donna Brearley, TAG Coordinator (703-619-8024)