



Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting
Spratley Gifted Center
September 16, 2010
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Minutes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.
- II. Copies of the new state regulations were distributed. Copies of the college handbook, parent/teacher conference guides, and the revised NAGC standards for gifted education were also distributed.
- III. Current eligibility data was discussed, with the objective of finding ways to continue to increase numbers of minority students eligible for gifted services. Mrs. Grillo will provide a breakdown on ethnicity data by referral, grade level, and program. The recommendation of the committee is to increase teacher and principal training about the characteristics of giftedness in underserved populations. Dr. Roberson will provide suggestions for appropriate research-based training materials. The committee also recommended that training be provided to principals and vice principals about gifted identification and best practices in gifted services, including appropriate cluster grouping.
- IV. The committee recommended that the TONI (Test of Non-Verbal Intelligence) be made available as an option for identifying giftedness in ESL students, along with training for the ESL teachers.
- V. Appeal process: the recommendation of the committee is to state in the new Local Plan that the decision of the appeal committee is final, and that a request for an additional evaluation may be made one calendar year after the initial eligibility decision. It is understood that the first step in the appeal process is to call the program director, who will take appropriate actions to make sure that all appropriate avenues have been pursued to ensure an accurate eligibility decision, prior to the convening of an appeal committee.
- VI. Kindergarten: the recommendation of the committee is that all kindergarten teachers will use the SIGS (Scales for Identifying Gifted Children) to rate each kindergarten child for possible referral for gifted eligibility. Teachers will be trained to use this scale, and will complete it in January or February for every kindergarten student, as a division-wide screening method for kindergarteners. The committee felt that this would provide a more accurate method of screening potentially gifted students than a standardized test at this grade level.
- VII. Re-evaluations and additional screenings: the recommendation of the committee is that the CogAT ability test will continue to be administered to all second grade students, as an additional division-wide screening. Identified gifted students in the resource program in grade 5 will be re-evaluated to see if they meet the criteria for full-time placement at Spratley. Fifth grade students already placed at Spratley will not have a formal fifth grade re-evaluation, but their progress will be monitored as needed throughout the 3-8 program. Should concerns about a student's academic progress arise, student intervention teams (SIT) will meet as needed to address those concerns, and to create appropriate educational plans to meet the needs of the student.

- VIII. Mrs. Grillo will post the regulatory documents for the new gifted regulations on the web when they are made available from the Virginia Department of Education., along with the templates for the new local plans.
- IX. The focus of the next meeting will be on developing five-year goals for the gifted programs. Additional work sessions may be called as needed to supplement the work of the full committee.
- X. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.