

FBIISD

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GIFTED AND TALENTED

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

JANUARY 15, 2021

QUARTER 4 - OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER



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TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Task Force researches, recommends, informs, and suggests best practices for growing and strengthening the FBISD GT Program aligned to a five-year plan. Membership includes parents, students, administrators, GT department members, district executive leadership, and community members.

In the fourth quarter, the GT Task Force met in October, November, and December. All agendas and minutes are posted on the GT web page under the Task Force tab. The Task Force subcommittees -- Acceleration, Communications, Curriculum, Secondary Service Design Enhancement, and Student Identification/Program Expansion -- also continued to meet throughout the fourth quarter, and following are the reports from each subcommittee on the progress made toward major goals:

Acceleration

This quarter, the Acceleration Subcommittee identified data sources that would be used in the qualification process for the **Accelerated Model Program (AMP)** scheduled to pilot in Fall 2021. The Subcommittee determined the need for both quantitative and qualitative measures as part of this process. To that end, the subcommittee drafted parent, teacher, and student feedback surveys as well as a preliminary qualification matrix. Their goal is to confirm all FBISD students have equal access to the Accelerated Model Program. This subcommittee has submitted its most recent work to the full task force twice this quarter to solicit feedback and ensure the subcommittee's work is heading in a positive, clear and feasible direction.

Communications

The Communications Subcommittee has worked to publish a reader-friendly version of the **Five-Year Plan** and post it on the GT web page under the GT Programming tab. The Five Year Plan was broken down into Completed, In Progress, and Long Term subsections. The subcommittee has also continued to publish the GT Department's **monthly newsletter** to families, administrators, counselors, COGS, and Task Force membership, as well as post it on the GT web page under the News tab. Finally, the subcommittee drafted the **Parent Guide for TPSP** for approval by the Curriculum Subcommittee.

Curriculum

The Curriculum Subcommittee's primary focus this quarter has been the **Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) in Fort Bend ISD** and the **2020-2021 Gifted and Talented Showcase**. Expansion of TPSP to grades 1-12 was supported through the creation of additional learning for teachers and parents. Teacher professional learning was developed to provide ongoing support with the process. A parent guide for TPSP has been created and is in the final stages of editing based on stakeholder feedback. The 2020-2021 Gifted and Talented Showcase was discussed, and it was determined that it will be held in a virtual format in April 2021.

Secondary Service Design Enhancement

The Service Design Enhancement Subcommittee completed several tasks this quarter. The committee gathered feedback from students regarding **expanding secondary GT service options** by offering a survey to our gifted students. In addition, several members of our committee interviewed leaders from Texas districts to gain insight on best practices relating to **GT-specific independent study courses**. In collaboration with the Acceleration Committee, the committee has decided on **GT-specific Pre-AP courses to be piloted next school year**. The courses identified are Algebra I and English I.

Student Identification/Program Expansion

The Student Identification/Program Expansion Subcommittee created a survey to identify areas for improvement and additional use of the **Universal Screener** process to address equity and access to gifted programming. The subcommittee reviewed the Fort Bend ISD GT enrollment data to identify trends and has begun the process of identifying areas where equity and access to GT programming may be improved.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

The members of the GT PAC are committed to ensuring that school policies and programs benefit all students, including gifted learners. The parent representatives serve as liaisons between the GT PAC and their school community, sharing Gifted and Talented programming news with their school communities and providing feedback to the committee from their school communities.

The PAC has been very busy this fall. Monthly virtual meetings have been held, in addition to subcommittee meetings. This year the PAC has split into four subcommittees to focus its efforts. These committees include Elementary Student Support, Secondary Student Support, Communications, and the GT Symposium.

The Elementary Support Committee is focusing on the best way to support the District's youngest GT learners. Subcommittee members are considering how parents can gather the information they need to support their GT children. **The Secondary Support Committee** intends to schedule virtual social meetings for secondary GT learners. The goal is to bring GT learners together to help them form bonds that can provide support as they navigate their middle and high school years. **The Communications Committee** is focused on standardizing communication from individual campuses to parents. Finally, the **GT Symposium Committee** is working on a series of virtual events that will take place throughout the week of April 12th. If anyone is interested in presenting a specific topic, please reach out the GT PAC Executive Board at fbisdgtpac@gmail.com.

GT PAC Representatives Needed

At the end of this quarter, there are 18 schools without GT PAC representation. They include **Armstrong ES, Austin Parkway ES, Blue Ridge ES, Glover ES, Heritage Rose ES, Highlands ES, Mission Glen ES, Oyster Creek ES, Patterson ES, Pecan Grove ES, Ridge Gate ES, Townewest ES, Bowie MS, McAuliffe MS, Bush HS, Kempner HS, Marshall HS, and Willowridge HS**. If a campus does not have representation, the GT Department asks that any parent who would like to represent their school contact the GT Department at GTFBISD@fortbendisd.com or the GTPAC at fbisdgtpac@gmail.com.

Additional information about the FBISD GT PAC is always available on the [PAC webpage](#).

PILOTS AND CAMPUSES

It is the goal of the Gifted and Talented Department in Fort Bend ISD to continue to develop innovative programming based on current research. As programming is developed, it is "piloted" at level grade levels and campuses in order to collect feedback prior to launching the initiative District-wide. The 2020-2021 pilot programs are Innovation Hour and GT Learning Plan (revised).

Innovation Hour

Participating grade levels: 2nd, 6th, 9th

Participating Campuses: AFE, BRE, CSE, LCE, MYE, JPE, WSE, GMS, QVMS, CHS

The Innovation Hour pilot continued to gain momentum with the first presentations of student projects! One of our exceptional second grade GT teachers, **Ms. Hilary Brannon** from **Malala Elementary**, had several students present their projects for authentic audiences extending beyond their classroom. Ms. Brannon's students have been conducting virtual interviews with professionals in their field of interest, creating amazing products, and sharing their innovative work with peers, administrators, and others. The GT Department has also begun the process of introducing the digital portfolio platform **Bulb** for our Innovation Hour students. Innovation Hour teachers and students will begin utilizing this innovative application in January 2021.

GT Learning Plan Reimagined (GTLP)

Participating Campuses: WBE, CSE, HRE, EAJ, BJE, JNE, SOE, DCMS, FSMS, AHS, BHS

The Gifted and Talented Learning Plan Reimagined (GTLP) program experienced an additional start delay due to the impact of Covid-19 and scheduling changes for the second nine weeks.

Students began the goal development process in mid-November. Student goals were shared with parents in November/December. Teachers will enter student goals in the GT Learning Plan on Skyward in January 2021. An updated timeline was posted to the GT Learning Plan Reimagined website.
