

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

April 15, 2023

QUARTER 1 - JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH







IN THIS ISSUE

GT Work Streams Update

Parent Advisory Committee Update

Pilots and Programming

GT WORK STREAMS UPDATE

The GT Work Streams research, recommend, inform, and suggest best practices for growing and strengthening the FBISD GT Program aligned to a five-year plan. Work Stream membership includes parents, students, administrators, GT department members, District executive leadership, and community members.

In the first quarter of 2023, the The GT Work Streams -- Communications, GT Credentialing, GT Representation/VISTAS, Secondary Service Design Enhancement, and Student Identification/Program Expansion -- continued to meet on priority tasks identified in the previous quarter. Work Stream Progress is noted below:

Communications -- The Communications work stream has continued to ensure quality and timely messaging for the GT community through monthly newsletters sent directly to parents through the Smore platform, posted on the GT main web page and individual campus GT web pages, and shared through Schoology Communication courses. All GT web pages continue to be monitored regularly for accuracy and relevance.

GT Credentialing -- The Credentialing Work Stream met twice during Quarter One and determined a plan of action for implementing a system. The work stream researched districts with similar systems to determine the needs of our District. A plan has been developed to create a system that allows for the automation of credentialing for our teachers. A communication plan informing all stakeholders of the development and implementation processes is also under construction. The focus moving forward will be to collaborate with our Information Technology Department to begin construction of the system.

GT Representation/VISTAS -- During Quarter One, the GT Department conducted walkthroughs for all Vistas classrooms in FBISD in order to gather additional timely data on current Vistas instruction. The GT Representation Work Stream continued the Root Cause Identification process by identifying five themes within the Vistas data collected in January as well as data analyzed in Quarter Four 2022: (1) teacher confidence and training, (2) additional stakeholder training, (3) program resources, (4) communications, and (5) identification and data. Based on these themes, the Work Stream has described the issues and identified causes in each area and has started the process of identifying strategies to address each cause.

Secondary Service Design Enhancement -- The Secondary Service Design Enhancement Work Stream has confirmed the GT specific elective course "Innovation Lab" will be piloted during the 2023-24 school year at Sartartia Middle School. The goal is to eventually offer this course at additional middle school campuses following the 2023-24 school year. In addition, the work stream is in the process of revisiting goals and priorities for the 2023-24 school year in regard to expanding GT services at the secondary level.

Student Identification/Program Expansion -- The Student Identification/Program Expansion (SIPE) Work Stream developed a GT observation behavior checklist for the new digital FBISD GT Observation form for parents and teachers. The work stream committee is currently completing final edits on the form to ensure readability for parents especially those parents from low-SES and non-native English speakers. Additionally, the committee is reviewing the form to determine exemplars to include in future parent and teacher webinar trainings.

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.

GT Parent Advisory Committee (GT PAC) meetings now include a "Parent Chit-Chat" agenda item aimed at building GT parents' capacity relating to GT programming and resources in FBISD. The "Parent Chit-Chat" allows parents of gifted students to share their experiences on a preselected topic. Information gathered during the "Parent Chit-Chat" is shared during the following month's GT PAC monthly "Information Download" for GT parents. The information download is open to all GT parents in FBISD, the zoom link is shared in the monthly GT newsletter.

The GT PAC is hosting its first "GT Game Day" event specifically for families of GT students on Saturday, April 15, 2023. This event will take place at the First Colony Library (2121 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, Texas, 77479) from 2:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m. There is no cost to attend and the PAC is requesting all interested families register at https://bit.ly/FBISD_GTGameDay2023. Hope to see you there!

PILOTS AND PROGRAMMING

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 different grade levels and campuses in order to collect feedback prior to launching the initiative District-wide. The 2022-2023 pilot program continues to be Innovation Hour. As programming moves from the pilot phase into the implementation phase, we continue to monitor and report progress during its inaugural year. In 2022-23 the GT Learning Plan is moving to year one of its district-wide implementation phase.

Innovation Hour

Participating campuses:

AFE, BRE, CME, CSE, LGE, LLE, LCE, CVME, MYE, ME, PE, JPE, SWE, WSE, MGMS

Innovation Hour has soared to new heights in the last quarter! Campus visits continued as students began to wrap up their projects and prepare for campus and district showcases. The Innovation Hour program has been approved to expand for the 2023-2024 school year and will include up to 13 new campuses. A founders grant was also approved to help support the program with an influx of professional-grade technology that will allow our students to create in all new ways. The GT Department continues to gather data to make informed programmatic decisions designed to improve the program moving forward.

GT Learning Plan

Campuses continue to monitor the GT Learning Plan and student progress. In February, students reviewed their goals to monitor their status and make any adjustments necessary to meet their goals by May 2023. GT Learning Plan progress checks were noted on the student's Skyward GT Learning Plan by February 24, 2023. During the final phase of the GT Learning Plan, students and teachers will reflect on the goal achievement process.