

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

January 15, 2022

QUARTER 4 - OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER



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GT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM UPDATE

The GT Implementation Team Work Streams research, recommend, inform, and suggest 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 of 2021, the The GT Implementation Team Work Streams -- Acceleration, Communications, Elementary Service Expansion Exploratory, GT Representation, Secondary Service Design Enhancement, and Student Identification/Program Expansion -- met throughout the quarter, and following are the reports from each subcommittee on the progress made toward major goals:

Acceleration -- The Acceleration Work Stream continued to focus on the initial capacity-building steps necessary to implement the Accelerated Model Program (AMP) program scheduled to pilot in Fall 2022. AMP Pilot campus principals joined the Work Stream to build program capacity and provide crucial perspective on the implementation process. Campus logistics continued to be a focal point, specifically addressing the needs of our diverse pilot campuses. Foundational documents were revisited for editing and accuracy.

Communications -- The Communications Work Stream spent the fourth quarter of 2021 refining and prioritizing topics for communication. Using analytics from the Smore platform, the work stream are able to determine the level of readership and the highest click rates for the topics in each edition of the monthly newsletter. Using that information, the Work Stream has reorganized the newsletter so the most popular topics are on the top of the page. The Work Stream has also designated items in the newsletter as "new" or "updated" for quick reference. Finally, items in the newsletter are listed under the grade bands of Elementary, Middle School, and High School so that readers can zero in on the topics that are applicable to them.

Campus GT web pages continue to be enhanced to serve as a reference for campus and district communications about GT programming. The Communications Work Stream has also added two Champions of Gifted Services (COGS) to its membership. The COGS from Patterson Elementary, Leslie Ackerman, and the COGS from Hightower High School, have been providing insight to the Work Stream in order to improve internal communications as well as communication with the District's GT community.

Elementary Service Expansion Exploratory -- The Elementary Exploratory Work Stream has been in the researching and exploring phase through out the fourth quarter of 2021. The ultimate goal of this Work Stream is to make several feasible proposals for expanding elementary GT services to the FBISD GT Department by May 2021.

GT Representation -- To focus on GT Representation in FBISD, the GT Representation Work Stream was created from the Student Identification and Program Evaluation Work Stream during 2021 Quarter Four. The GT Representation Work Stream is tasked with analyzing FBISD's current GT representational status and determining root causes, evaluating the Vistas Program including services and curriculum, and investigating community communication on Title I campuses. During Quarter Four, the Work Stream began the Root Cause Identification process by analyzing GT Representation data including campus and district data disaggregated by ethnicity, grade level, campus, gender, and home language, including both short- and long-term data.

Secondary Service Design Enhancement -- The Secondary Service Design Enhancement Work Stream has been awaiting the approval of the GT Specific Independent Study Course. The GT Department plans to pilot this course next school year at the middle school level. To ensure students are aware of this opportunity, the Secondary Service Design Enhancement Work Stream has been working to develop a communication plan that will include an infomercial to recruit students for this course. Lastly, the Work Stream is in the process of collaborating with the curriculum team to research and design curriculum documents for this course.

Student Identification/Program Expansion -- The Student Identification/Program Expansion (SIPE) Work Stream reviewed the FBISD GT Identification process to determine areas of improvement in order to ensure alignment with the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted Students. The SIPE Work Stream has been researching additional qualitative measures for efficacy and possible implementation in the FBISD GT Identification process. In October and November, committee members researched and shared GT Identification processes from other districts, both in Texas and other states. The Work Stream is currently discussing additional measures to evaluate kindergarten students for gifted services and to be in compliance with the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted Students.

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 GT Parent Advisory Committee (GT PAC) meets virtually the second Wednesday of each month. The membership of this group includes parents of gifted students from various campuses across the district. The GT PAC foci for the 2021-22 school year include hosting the annual GT Parent Symposium, increasing parent engagement in FBISD, and providing GT families resources specifically for gifted students.

The 2022 GT Parent Symposium: Gifted Parenting in Today's World will be held virtually on February 23, February 24 and February 26, 2022.

The GT PAC is currently seeking presenters for this event. If you are interested in facilitating a session, please contact Monica Willis at willismonica08@gmail.com.

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 2021-2022 pilot programs continue to be Innovation Hour and GT Learning Plan (Reimagined).

Innovation Hour

Participating campuses and grade levels:

AFE (2&4), BRE (2&3), CME (2), CSE (2&3), LGE (2), LLE (2), LCE (2&3), CVME (2), MYE (2&3), ME (2), PE (2), JPE (2&3), SWE (2), WSE (2&3), JBMS (6), MGMS (6&7), QVMS (6&7)

Innovation Hour is in full swing for both Year One and Year Two campuses. Teacher training has been completed for the 2021-2022 school year and the program has been implemented on each pilot campus. Campus visits have been scheduled for Quarter One of 2022 to allow the GT Department to provide on-site support, identify campus needs, and monitor program progress.

GT Learning Plan Reimagined (GTLP)

Participating Campuses: APE, WBE, CWE, CSE, EGE, HRE, EAJ, BJE, LLE, DLE, MYE, JNE, OCE, SOE, WSE, DCMS, FSMS, SMS, AHS, BHS, THS

During the 2nd nine weeks, goals for GT learning Plans were entered and students began working on or identifying their action steps. New to the GT Learning Plan process for the 2021-22 school year is the addition of documented progress checks for the 2nd and 3rd nine weeks. Teachers began meeting with students and entering progress check notes on the GT Learning Plan. The first progress check was entered on the GT Learning Plan by December 10.

Focus meetings to discuss improvements for the GT Learning Plan process at middle and high school were held with GT Administrators and Champions of Gifted Services. Based on feedback from secondary campuses, GT Learning Plans will be phased in at the middle and high school level as the GT learning Plan is rolled out district-wide for the 2022-2023 school year. New (non-pilot) middle and high school campuses will introduce the GT Learning Plans with 6th and 9th grade in 2022-23. Additionally, to improve the monitoring process, GT students will be placed together in homerooms.

As we move forward with district-wide implementation in August 2022, the GT Department continues to focus on improvements in the GT Learning Plan. The key questions we seek to answer are:

- What professional learning opportunities are needed to support teachers new to the GT Learning Plan process?
- What changes (if any) are needed to improve the GT Learning Plan monitoring process?
- What additional supports are needed to help campuses and teachers to be more efficient with the GT Learning plan process?