

## **Albemarle County Gifted Education Advisory Committee**

### **Background (Purpose)**

The Gifted Advisory Committee is charged with the following functions:

1. Advise central staff and the division superintendent of the educational needs of gifted students in the division;
2. Advocate for gifted education and promotes the continued improvement of services for this purpose
3. Promote dialogue between parents, students, school personnel, and community members on issues related to the needs of gifted students.

### **Administrative Consideration (Rationale)**

The Gifted Advisory Committee meets monthly and will submit a summary of its work this spring regarding its study of the program and services in place to meet the needs of gifted children to the division superintendent. This mid-year update provides a summary of the Committee's focus to date.

### **Budget Implications (Short and Long Term)**

Any recommendations made by the Gifted Advisory Committee that have fiscal impact and are pursued and developed based on direction of the School Board will be brought forward through the budget initiative procedure.

### **Recommendation/Future Direction/Time Lines**

Receive the Gifted Advisory Committee update for information.

### **Overview**

The Albemarle County Gifted Advisory Committee is composed of 13 parents, 5 teachers, and 4 administrators. To date the Committee has met twice this year and will meet four more times before the end of the school year. The committee has a balance of new and returning members and works in conjunction with Jennifer Sublette-Williamson, the Lead Coach facilitating Gifted Services for the division.

During the course of the year the Gifted Advisory Committee will review current processes, services, and opportunities offered within our schools to meet the needs of gifted learners and measure these against the goals of the Local Plan for Gifted Services. This will support the work of division staff and Gifted Resource Teachers to develop a logic model for Gifted Services that will serve as the foundation for a revision of the division's Local Plan for Gifted Services in 2014. The Gifted Advisory Committee will be a critical source for stakeholder input during the process of developing a new Local Plan for Gifted Services.

In accordance with the Local Plan for Gifted Services, Gifted Resource Teachers support schools in meeting the needs of gifted learners through an inclusive program. Gifted Resource Teachers oversee the process of formal identification of

students for general intellectual giftedness and work with teachers to meet the broader needs of our student population in terms of rigor, enrichment, and extension opportunities.

#### **Current Levels of Student Identification – December 2013**

|                          | <b>Elementary*</b> | <b>Middle</b> | <b>High</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Identified Gifted</b> | 305                | 457           | 604         |
| <b>Total Population</b>  | 6362               | 2981          | 4084        |
|                          | 4.7%               | 15%           | 14.7%       |

\*While students are served K-5 by Gifted Resource Teachers, the process for screening all students for identification begins in the spring of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This leads to a significant change in the levels of identification by the end of the year. For example, at the end of 2012-2013, 11.6% of Albemarle County students were identified as Gifted.

#### **Current Levels of Gifted Resource Teacher Staffing**

|                            | <b>Elementary</b>                                                                                                                                                | <b>Middle</b>                                                    | <b>High</b>                                                      |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>State Standard</b>      | Note                                                                                                                                                             | None                                                             | None                                                             |
| <b>Albemarle Standard</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• .5 to 200 students</li> <li>• .6 to 250 students</li> <li>• .7 to 300 students</li> <li>• 1 to more than 300</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 per school</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 per school</li> </ul> |
| <b>Past Albemarle Goal</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.25 at 500</li> </ul>                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.25 at 500</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.25 at 500</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Funding Implication</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal would require funding</li> </ul>                                                                                   |                                                                  |                                                                  |

For the past several years increasing staffing for Gifted Resource Teachers to 1.25 at 500 students has been listed as a goal for the division. This has not been possible given recent funding conditions. The Gifted Advisory Committee will keep this goal in mind as it studies current services in terms of their impact and challenges.

#### **Summary**

The Gifted Advisory Committee supports the crucial role that Gifted Services plays in working toward the goal of Albemarle County to unleash the potential of all students. The work of Gifted Services not only provides opportunities for gifted learners but also works to ensure that rich opportunities and challenges are available for all students across the division.

**2013-2014 Gifted Advisory Committee Members**

Agnor-Hurt Elementary School: Diane Benham, parent  
Albemarle High School: Tracey Townes, parent  
Broadus Wood Elementary School: Jane McBrian, parent  
Brownsville Elementary School: India Haun, administrator  
Burley Middle School: Judy Cutright, teacher  
Cale Elementary School: Wen Wang, parent  
Crozet Elementary School: Erin Rothman, parent  
Greer Elementary School: Tom Ward, parent  
Henley Middle School: Olwen Fabiano, parent  
Hollymead Elementary School: Robin Kaczka, parent  
Jouett Middle School: Rennie Mapp, parent  
Meriwether Lewis Elementary School: Florence Sadler, teacher  
Murray Elementary School: Deke Shrum, parent  
Murray High School: Annie Jacobs, teacher  
Red Hill Elementary School: Kathleen Garcia, teacher  
Scottsville Elementary School: D'Arcy Byrne, parent  
Stone-Robinson Elementary School: Latishia Wilson, administrator  
Stony Point Elementary School: Mary Kathryn Calhoun, parent  
Sutherland Middle School: Andrea Heapes, parent  
Walton Middle School: Alison Dwier-Selden, administrator  
Western Albemarle High School: Tim Driver, administrator  
Woodbrook Elementary School: Christine Kelly, teacher  
Central Office Staff: Jennifer Sublette-Williamson, Lead Coach