

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education
Gifted Sub-Committee Minutes
April 24, 2024

Attended In-person at North Beach Elementary School:

Beverly Heller, Maria Ratti, Jeannette Macias, Karen Marsh, and Maria Sellek

Discussions Items:

- Ms. Sellek thanked the members of the committee for their dedication to gifted students, attending the sub-committee meetings throughout the year, and providing valuable input and feedback.
- The Department of Advanced Academic Programs (DAAP) staff shared progress made toward Goal 1: The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee supports increasing identification of underrepresented students in gifted education.
 - Over 6,300 gifted referrals have been made as of March 30th, almost doubling the February count. Of those students referred, about 1,500 are ELL and 3,400 are from low socio-economic backgrounds.
- DAAP shared progress made toward Goal 2: The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee supports professional learning for all teachers, including teachers of the gifted, administrators, and staff members, on instructional resources and strategies to address the needs of gifted learners.
 - Professional learning sessions for experienced teachers of the gifted as well as those new to teaching gifted in the following areas have been offered: Junior Great Books and Shared Inquiry, using the ESE-Electronic Management system, Gifted Endorsement courses, and school-site introduction to Teaching Enrichment Activities Mindfully (TEAM) for new programs.
 - Summer courses for teachers were previewed.
 - Ms. Heller asked that this goal be reworded for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee supports professional learning for all educational personnel, including teachers of the gifted, administrators, and staff members, on instructional resources and strategies to address the needs of gifted learners.
 - Ms. Heller asked if charter schools and private schools would be able to attend professional learning sessions.

- Ms. Heller suggested that summer professional learning sessions on Problem Based Learning (PBL), a component of a grant with George Mason University to identify potentially gifted students within the general education setting, be available to teachers of the gifted.
- Ms. Ratti recommended that teachers be offered training in social-emotional learning, focusing on equipping them with specific tools and strategies to support gifted students facing challenges with social interactions.
- DAAP shared progress made toward Goal 3: The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee will share important gifted updates and information with community members and parents, with an emphasis on how they can work with their children to successfully realize their potential.
 - In collaboration with the Parent Academy, DAAP presented six sessions on identifying gifted learners. These were offered in the morning and evening in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole.
 - Opportunities for parent learning included a webinar sponsored by National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) on May 7th.
 - Opportunities for advanced learning and creative exploration were shared, including Miami-Dade Library's Storytime Express and websites for parents to visit with their children.
 - Ms. Heller recommended that DAAP create flyers for non-English speakers describing the Gifted Program and other Advanced Academic Programs offered by Miami-Dade County Public Schools..