

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education
Gifted Sub-Committee Minutes
April 2, 2025

Attendees:

In-person: Maria Paula De Carolis, Beverly Heller, Maria Ratti, Jeannette Macias, Maria Sellek

Discussion Items:

- Goals were reviewed and progress towards each was provided.
- Goal 1: The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee supports increasing identification of underrepresented students in gifted education.
 - Over 5,400 students have been referred for possible gifted placement. This is more than twice the total number of referrals as of January 31, 2025.
 - About 1,900 are English Language Learners who are currently receiving English instruction or were recently exited from the program.
 - Approximately 2,700 are from low socio-economic backgrounds.
- Goal 2: The ESE Panel Gifted Sub-Committee supports professional learning for all school staff, including teachers, teachers of the gifted, administrators, and other staff members, on instructional resources and strategies to address the needs of gifted learners.
 - Advanced Academics presented at the District March MTSS Coordinator meeting to offer gifted support within the MTSS model. Topics covered:
 - ✓ Identifying Gifted Students within the MTSS Framework: Strategies for identifying gifted students who may not be traditionally identified.
 - ✓ Differentiating Instruction for Gifted Learners: Effective strategies for differentiating instruction to meet the unique needs of gifted students.
 - ✓ Collaboration and Communication: Best practices for collaboration between MTSS teams and gifted education specialists.

- ✓ Addressing the Needs of Underrepresented Gifted Students: Strategies for identifying and supporting gifted students from different backgrounds and those with disabilities.
 - ✓ Ms. Ratti would like future sessions to include information on twice-exceptional students.
 - ✓ Ms. Ratti also requested that we reach out to the Mental Health Department and collaborate on a future professional learning session.
- Advanced Academics was invited to present at the Language Arts ICAD sessions held in March. Teachers experienced a transdisciplinary shared inquiry session centered around a famous short story.
 - Advanced Academics met with teachers participating in endorsement courses to share recent updates in gifted education, professional learning opportunities, and types of support offered to new and continuing teachers of the gifted.
- 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.
 - Shared an article on Student Engagement and Wellbeing by Dr. Joseph Renzulli, University of Connecticut. <https://gifted.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/961/2025/03/Student-Engagement-and-Well-Being.pdf>
 - Shared information regarding a webinar for teachers and parents titled “The Students Speak: Thoughts on Living with Perfectionism” hosted by NAGC. The webinar focused on understanding perfectionism from the student’s perspective and providing support to the gifted child. A recording of the webinar can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUv4PjX8Usc>
 - The subcommittee members again mentioned that they would appreciate having guest speakers present to parents.
 - Information regarding SPB 2510 was shared. This bill aims to shave 50% of funding from accelerated programs including Dual Enrollment, International Baccalaureate Programs, Cambridge/AICE Programs, and Advanced Placement Programs. Members were encouraged to share this information with interested parents and community members.
- Because this was the last meeting of the 2024-2025 school year, Advanced Academics offered thanks to the sub-committee members for supporting the Gifted Program and attending meetings throughout the year.