

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education
Gifted Sub-Committee Minutes
February 5, 2025

Attendees:

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

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.
 - 2,500 students have been identified as potentially gifted as of 1/31/2025.
 - Over 1,100 of these students are from low socio-economic backgrounds.
 - Over 500 are English Language Learners (ELL) and almost 300 were exited from the ESOL program within the last two years.
 - Ms. Heller inquired about lunch status/income verification and how information for that designation is provided to parents and guardians.
- 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.
 - Ms. Heller would like the goal to include “supports the provision for all teachers, administrators, and staff members.
 - Advanced Academics partnered with the Elementary Language Arts Department to provide reading coaches and reading leaders with 18 sessions focused on meeting the needs of gifted students in the English Language Arts classrooms. Participants experienced a shared inquiry session in which they read a challenging piece of literature, explored possible interpretations in question discussion, and analyzed responses

to see the question from different angles. Ms. Ratti commented that it was great the general education teachers are part of ICADs so that they can hear what gifted students need socially, emotionally, and academically.

- Ms. Heller asked which schools did participate in ICADs and requested a list.
 - Ms. Ratti would like ICADs in the middle/high grades.
 - The subcommittee was interested in exploring the possibility of having office aides assist twice exceptional students.
 - 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.
 - Advanced Academics participated in the M-DCPS Choice Expos held at the MDC North and MDC Kendall campuses in December and January.
 - Shared information regarding webinar for teachers and parents titled “Gifted 101: The 5 Things You Need to Know” hosted by the National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC). The webinar focused on five core ideas that would help teachers better serve gifted students.
 - Shared information regarding webinar for teachers and parents titled “From the Sidelines: Suggestions to Support Your Perfectionistic Gifted Child” hosted by NAGC. The webinar focused on practical strategies to help parents and caregivers better understand perfectionism and provide meaningful support to their gifted child.
 - The subcommittee members would like guest speakers at the subcommittee meetings to encourage parents to attend.
 - Ms. Ratti asked that Advanced Academics present MS/HS programs for parents at the subcommittee meeting.
 - Discussed locations and dates for future meetings.