

MCCPTA Committee: Gifted Child Committee

2017/2018

Chair Lang Lin (pta.langlin@gmail.com)
Vice-Chair Kim Testa (kgtesta@aol.com)
 Iris Masucci (ri@robertandiris.com)

Committee Chairpersons of local PTA Gifted Child Committees/local PTA GT Liaisons; other interested
Members persons.

Vision

MCPS is committed to “extend[ing] each child’s intellectual boundaries and help[ing] all students achieve their highest potential.” MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee (GCC) supports and advocates on behalf of children who require accelerated and enriched instruction beyond the grade level curriculum in order to achieve at their highest level. GCC seeks to increase public awareness of the special needs of all highly able learners and to assist their families in guiding the education of these children, in order to ensure that they are adequately identified and educated. GCC also serves as liaisons between MCPS staff and families/local school staff where appropriate to help identify and solve problems for individual students or schools. GCC promotes the philosophy that MCPS can provide appropriately challenging opportunities for advanced level learners without undermining appropriate educational opportunities for on grade level students and without detracting from the needs of students who need extra support to achieve proficiency. GCC works to ensure that MCPS systematically provides appropriate programming to meet equitably each child’s unique gifts and talents in compliance with Policy IOA and Regulation IOA-RA.

Goals

1. Provide resources for families in MCPS and support them in advocating for appropriate accelerated and enriched instruction for highly able students. Attainment will be measured in part by monitoring how many families make use of the provided resources and describe them as useful.
2. Assist MCPS in educating families about the full spectrum of services it offers for gifted education, including the application programs and their deadlines.
3. Advocate for full compliance with Montgomery County Board of Education Policy IOA and Regulation IOA-RA and also Annotated Code of Maryland Title 8, Subtitle 2 and Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.04.07, which establish minimum standards for identification and services for gifted students.
4. Identify effective acceleration/enrichment practices within MCPS, including practices developed for magnet programs, and promote their effective implementation in all local schools across the County through discussions with curriculum specialists and local school administrators.

5. Identify for families best practices from outside MCPS for education of highly able learners, including classroom and cluster grouping practices supported by research, and recommend their implementation within MCPS where appropriate.
6. Represent MCCPTA on the Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Feedback Committee.
7. Nurture positive initiatives and changes for improving general practice in gifted education.

Action Steps

1. GCC will continue to advocate for appropriate GT education opportunities in all MCPS schools before Superintendent Jack Smith and his staff. Several parents continue to express concerns about the implementation of Curriculum 2.0 not meeting the needs of the advanced learners. GCC will continue to work with the director of the Division of Accelerated and Enriched Education, Meredith Casper, and with Dr. Erick Lang and his staff to identify challenges and discuss how MCCPTA can support new initiatives.

2. GCC expects to continue to work with Dr. Bruce D. Riegel, Lead Specialist for Gifted and Talented Education at the Maryland State Department of Education and the MSDE Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee (GTAC)

3. GCC will continue to seek broad parent input by recruiting local PTA GT Liaisons from every school in the County.

4. Communications:

GCC will continue to promote the MCCPTA discussion E-list for GT Liaisons and other interested parents and community members to share information and discuss options.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GTLiaisons>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MCCPTAGiftedChildCommittee>

5. GCC will provide at least two informational/training meetings for GT Liaisons and other interested families and members of the community. The meetings will include a fall Training Session for GT Liaisons, at which GCC will:

- Disseminate general GT information regarding global screening, acceleration opportunities in reading and mathematics, and accelerated/center/magnet programs available to individual students.
- Discuss any changes in programs, staffing, and transportation due to ongoing budget concerns and curriculum changes, and how schools can advocate for preservation of necessary programs.
- Alert liaisons to programs that exist in some MCPS schools and how they can advocate for expansion of such programs to their own schools if needed.

GCC will solicit ideas for additional meetings from committee members.

6. GCC will continue to monitor the implementation of C2.0/CCSS/NGSS and ensure that GT needs will be met by encouraging local school families of advanced students to report their experiences and identify implementation challenges and successes.

Expenses

GCC asks for a budget of \$150 for refreshments and other materials for meetings.