

GATE Advisory Council Meeting Recap

The GAC's focus this year will be on the redevelopment and renewal of the District GATE Plan.

GAC members (parents, teachers, and admins.) discussed the following questions in small groups. Responses were provided as part of a larger group discussion.

A. What did you find most informative/interesting in the survey results?

- There are low participation rates of GATE students in the enrichment programs listed in the survey. Some expressed that may be a result of many activities occurring before or after school.
- Parents report that they are not aware of differentiation in the classroom. The teachers who were present expressed that more communication about differentiation needs to occur.
- Parents report concerns about not enough challenge or clustering.
- Many families access non-district activities.

B. What three issues do you believe the surveys indicate we should review as part of our GATE plan renewal?

- How to better meet needs of students.
- Review course offering for GATE students.
- Review how to increase level of challenge for freshmen and sophomores at PHS.
- Review how to provide more student specific communication regarding GATE to parents.
- Review how to improve consistency in implementation within and across grades/sites.

C. What is the single most important issue that you would like to see addressed in the new GATE plan and why is that issue of importance. (Please focus on interests not solutions.)

- How is GATE for distribution to parents and others (e.g. colleges).
- More clearly identify how we meet needs of students.
- Training for teachers.
- Increase specificity of communications to parents regarding their student.
- Identify students at an earlier age.

- How to provide teachers with more specific information about student strengths.
- More clearly identify when being GATE should result in something different being provided and when it may not.
- Improve upon the identification process.
- Improve the perception of GATE among the broad educational community.