

DCSD Gifted & High Achievers' Program Audit

Overview of Audit Components

February 3, 2014

Michael L. Thurmond
Superintendent

Program Audit Overview

Beanstalk Innovation is a strategic consulting partner with DeKalb County School District contracted to conduct an in-depth review of the district's Gifted and High Achiever program to assess and assure the program's delivery of high quality, aligned curriculum and the accurate identification of eligible students throughout the district.



Program Audit Components

- Examine policy/procedure/curriculum documents for the Gifted and High Achiever Program and alignment with policy, procedure and law for the State of Georgia and the United States Department of Education.
- Review and report on the eligibility requirements and policy (or policy needed) for accurate student identification.
- Review and report on the communication tools and processes to Gifted and High Achiever Program parents and teachers.
- Review and report on monitoring expectations/requirements.
- Review and report on the district curricular materials provided to gifted program teachers for alignment with state and DCSD programming requirements and expectations including extension of Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS).
- Examine and analyze district choice options for curricular selection for gifted programming at the school level for consistency with district expectations. Review samples of highlights of school materials for alignment with CCGPS.

Program Audit Components

- Conduct on-site visits with a cross-section of local schools in each region
 - Interview Principals, Assistant Principals, and Gifted Teachers
 - Conduct classroom walkthrough visits
 - Utilize systematic questioning strategies to gain local school perspective regarding gifted program to include:
 - extent to which gifted program meets needs of students, extent to which gifted students are identified
 - extent to which gifted program is aligned to stated mission /goals of gifted program
 - gifted curriculum, materials, resources available/needed
 - school communication strategies used
 - local school strengths and weaknesses
 - provide recommendations for program improvement or revision

Program Audit Components

- Survey 3rd-12th grade students, teachers, parents, regarding perspective on gifted programming
 - Include stakeholders in the gifted program and those who are not part of the program
 - Utilize survey responses as part of program improvement suggestions /recommendations
- Complete and submit audit report to the Superintendent by the end of March, 2014

Program Audit Timeline

- January – Preplanning Meetings
- February to March
 - BOE Overview
 - Principals Meeting
 - Survey Window Opens
 - School Visits
 - Teachers Meetings
 - Conferences with District Staff
- March – Findings Report to the Superintendent