Parent and Community Involvement

Enhancing student achievement through collaboration among educators, administrators, parents and community is a shared goal of the Gaston County Schools and the Gifted Education Program. Gaston County Schools places a high priority on parental and community involvement. Open communication among these groups is critical for the success of our students. To encourage this communication a variety of strategies will be used.

Communication Strategies

- The Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Director will conduct informational meetings with Academically and Intellectually Gifted Teams (AIG Teams) to help them understand all aspects of the implementation of the plan at the school and district levels.
- AIG Team chairpersons and gifted education teachers will hold informational meetings to help their faculties and parents understand the implementation of the plan at their school.
- A Gifted Education Program brochure will be published for parents in order to provide written, accurate information about the AIG program options. The brochure will be available to interested parents at each school site. Additional copies will be available at the Gaston County School Central Office building.
- An AIG web page on the Gaston County Schools website will provide information on the components of the gifted program as well as showcase student enrichment opportunities and highlight student accomplishments.
- Accurate information regarding gifted education will be provided to the local media through the public information office.
- The Gifted Education plan will be incorporated into School Improvement Plans at each school.
- Individual schools will host parent nights to highlight student achievement and afford parents opportunities to interact with the learning environment.

Community Outreach Efforts

- A parent survey will be conducted annually to identify areas of strength and need in the AIG program design and implementation procedures.
- Parent conferences will be scheduled annually to review students’ Differentiated Education Plans (DEP)/Individual Differentiation Educational Plans (IDEP). Parents are encouraged to provide feedback and to help establish any interventions that need to be implemented.
- School business partners will be informed and encouraged to support program activities and goals.
• Efforts to establish reciprocal relationships with community organizations, community leaders and churches will be ongoing. Through the development of partnerships with Stowe Botanical Gardens, Schiele Museum and other government and private agencies, student achievement opportunities will be enhanced and community interaction will be promoted.

• Committees comprised of school personnel and community leaders will be established to seek additional monies from grants, educational foundations and private businesses to support specific program and scholarship initiatives.

• Parents and other family members are invited to attend our evening of Poetry and Prose Celebration at the Schiele Museum each spring.

• Members of the community volunteer their time and talents at our county-wide competitions each year.

• The AIG Director will continue to provide information to AIG teachers for parents about local workshops and opportunities sponsored by other organizations related to gifted issues.

• Forms and other AIG student/parent information will be provided in Spanish and any other language as the need arises.

• The AIG Director will work with local and state advocacy groups such as the North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented (NCAGT) and Parents for the Advancement of Gifted Education (PAGE) to gather and share information about local, state, and national issues in gifted education.