

Gifted and Talented Notes

May 21, 2009

Participants:

Kay Erwin, Murray; Chris Fournier, Park City; Jane Golightly, Wasatch; Moya Kessig, USOE; Mary Kay Kirkland, Box Elder; Barbara Langford, Alpine; Mary Lynn Lewis, Nebo; Teri Mattson, Jordan; Val Pack, Iron; Dr. Paul Shepherd, Granite; Sherilyn Shepherd-Suave, Davis; Ginny Smith, Provo; Sheri Sorensen, Granite; Sheri Taylor, Alpine; Jonette Wheeler, Cache.

1. **Twice Exceptional Students**

Cal Evans, Executive Director of Compliance and Special Programs, from Jordan School District presented information about students with disabilities and high cognitive abilities. Many G/T coordinators are asked to serve on school and district teams to develop an appropriate educational plan for students with disabilities and high cognitive abilities. Mr. Evans reviewed Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and IDEA, explaining who is covered by each law, and key components that may affect the identification process for both G/T and Special Education programs. Districts are seeing a rise in G/T students with a 504 plan.

Mr. Evans shared characteristics of both Asperger Syndrome and Behaviorally Disordered students. Included in the presentation was effective classroom tactics. If Coordinators need assistance on Special Education issues they could contact Mr. Evans at 801-567-8100.

2. **Meeting Schedule for Next Year**

Given the budget crisis, all G/T meetings will be electronic next year either by Wimba or Interactive Video Conference systems. USOE will be holding regional meetings with Curriculum Directors to determine what services / programs are a priority for USOE and how state meetings should be scheduled and organized. Moya Kessig, G/T Specialist, requested that coordinators discuss this issue with his/her Curriculum Director prior to the regional meetings.

3. **Identification Assessments**

Moya Kessig requested coordinators send in the assessments instruments each district is using to identify G/T students for services. **Please submit no later than June 15, 2009.**

4. **High Ability-Initiative Project**

There have been 35 new applicants apply for the project. Applicants will be notified of acceptance before June 10, 2009. Next fall, the online G/T endorsement classes will begin for both cohort groups. The website will go public in the next three weeks.



5. **UAGC**

Sheri Sorensen, UAGC President, discussed the possible changes for next year's mid-winter conference. The conference will only be on Friday and Saturday because of budget concerns.

The Fall Conference will be Sept 11th and 12th, 2009 in Cedar City. The keynote speaker will be Diane Haycock.

6. **USU District Agreements (MOU)**

Dr. Scott Hunsaker read the following statement:

After review of relevant Regents' and university policy, it has been determined that the current structure of the MOUs between Utah State University and local school districts for delivery of the USU gifted and talented endorsement program is not in compliance with those policies. As a result, no MOUs for new cohorts will be approved by USU, including with those districts which have historically had repeating agreements with the university. An agreement with the one district with which we have an existing agreement and which has not yet completed the sequence of courses will be honored to completion. That district has been so notified.

Utah State University remains committed to delivery of viable programs to promote the advancement of teacher professional development through graduate level education, including the gifted and talented endorsement program. While USU studies models for sustainable long-term delivery, as well as review of our curriculum based on the new national standards, we will offer face-to-face endorsement courses through arrangements between the School of Teacher Education and Leadership and our regional campuses. District coordinators will be notified of the dates, times, and locations of these courses.

Coordinators voiced concern about the district's ability to have teachers receive G/T endorsements. The coordinators want to explore other options to get teachers endorsed. Coordinators requested Dr. Hunsaker check into finishing up with the cohort groups who only have one class left to receive their endorsement.

7. **31st Annual Intermountain Conference on the Education of the Gifted & Talented**

Conference Topic: Differentiation in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.

Date: June 8 -10, 2009

Place: USU

Registration forms: giftedconference.org

Phone # 435-797-0423 or 800-538-2663

