



Introduction

In May, 2018 the Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools established an Advanced Learning Task Force (ALTF) to review and make recommendations to the Superintendent and School Board related to the policies, procedures, and practices of advanced learning programs and highly capable services. The task force work will support the district's work on equitable access to advanced learning as directed in School Board Resolution No. 2017/18-10.

The primary responsibility of the ALTF is to provide Seattle Public Schools with parental and community perspectives on Advanced Learning programs and Highly Capable services, including shared goals, mission and vision, understanding of historical and current operation, and future plans regarding programs and services, identification, testing and eligibility.

The work of the ALTF is to re-examine and re-envision how Seattle Public Schools serves students who bring the aptitude, potential, and ability for above and well above performance on state standards. This work will be anchored in and build on our commitments as set forth in state law and Board policy. The task force will consider and develop recommendations based on historical and current practices, student data, and will evaluate innovative and creative approaches to meet the academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs of students for the future.

- Adopting a mission and vision for advanced learning in Seattle Schools
- Defining and/or redeveloping Advanced Learning and Highly Capable services
- Promote equitable identification and access
- District-wide implementation

The ALTF has been convening since August 2018 and as of September 2019 has devoted more than 100 hours of working together during 20 formal sessions and multiple subgroup study sessions.

Outcomes as of September 1, 2019

On July 9, 2019 the ALTF unanimously approved and formally recommended the Vision, Mission and Commitments (VMC) for Superintendent approval (Charge #1). The VMC were first presented to the Board and Superintendent in November 2018.

See Addendum E

On August 20, 2019, the ALTF unanimously approved three Foundational Recommendations to inform the revision of School Board Policy #2190. The ALTF developed these recommendations anchored to School Board Policy #0030, Washington State Highly Capable Law, and aligned content and recommendations to the priorities of the 2019-2024 SPS Strategic Plan (Charge 2, 3).

See Addendum F



2018 Advanced Learning Task Force Members

The Task Force is comprised of a representative body of parents/guardians, Seattle Schools staff, community members and supported by Central office staff.

Andrew Siegel Parent of a Seattle Schools Student, identified Advanced Learner
Christine Tang Community Organization
Colin Pierce Staff, Teacher at Rainier Beach High School
Devin Bruckner Parent of a Seattle Schools Student identified HC
Dominique Daba Community Organization
Ji-Young Um Parent of a Seattle Schools Student identified HC
Joanna Noonan Parent of a Seattle Schools Student, identified Highly Capable (HC)
Jonathan Carroll-Madden HC Student in Seattle Schools
Joy Sebe Parent of a Seattle Schools Student, identified Highly Capable (HC)
Julie van Arcken Parent of a Seattle Schools Student identified HC
Kari O'Driscoll Community Organization
Laurie Bohm Parent of a Seattle Schools Student
Mary Kunce Parent of Seattle Schools Student, identified Advanced Learner
Dr. Nancy Hertzog Subject Matter Expert: Professor, University of Washington
Richard David Bash¹ *Parent of a Seattle Schools Student identified HC*
Rina Geoghagan *Staff, Principal Decatur Elementary*
Stacia Hawkinson *Staff, Indian Education Services, Seattle Schools*
Theresa Yeh Parent of a Seattle Schools Student identified HC
Ursula White-Oliver Parent of a Seattle Schools Student identified HC
Valeri Makam Parent of a Seattle Schools Student identified HC
Vanessa Meraki Staff, Teacher at Emerson Elementary

Central Staff:

Kari Hanson Director, Student Support Services, Seattle Schools
Stephen Martin Supervisor, Department of Advanced Learning, Seattle Schools, Retired
Deborah Northern Coordinator, Department of Racial Equity Advancement, Seattle Schools
Faizah Bradford, *Coordinator, Department of Racial Equity Advancement, Seattle Schools*
Wyeth Jessee Chief, Student Support Services, Seattle Schools

¹ *Honorable mention:* Names in italics indicate ALTF member or participant no longer attending. We are grateful for their contribution to this work