

Overview: Mission/Vision Statement and Funding

Neuse Charter School (51A) Charter District - FY 2022 - Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted Plan, 2022-2025 - Rev 0

* LEA Superintendent's Name:

Dr. Melissa Blackwell

* LEA AIG Contact Name:

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Neuse Charter School has developed this local AIG plan based on the NC AIG Program Standards (adopted by SBE, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021). These Standards serve as a statewide framework and guide Public School Units (PSUs) to develop, implement, and monitor thoughtful and comprehensive AIG programs. The NC AIG Program Standards encompass six principle standards with accompanying practices. These standards articulate the expectations for quality, comprehensive, and effective local AIG programs aligned to NC's AIG legislation, Article 9B (N. C. G. S. 115C150.5). These best practices help to clarify the standard, describe what a PSU should have in place, and guide PSUs to improve their programs. In an effort to continue to transform AIG programs and align to the NC AIG Program Standards, each PSU has participated in a self-assessment process of their local AIG program, involving multiple stakeholders. The data gathered during this process has guided PSUs in their development of this local AIG plan for 2022-2025. This local AIG plan has been approved by the LEA's local board of education or charter school's board of directors and sent to NC DPI for comment.

For 2022-2025, the Neuse Charter School local AIG plan is as follows:

* Mission and/or Vision Statement(s)

The mission of Neuse Charter School is to educate K-12 students through a personalized approach to growth and achievement. High expectations and a focus on diverse perspectives provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in a global society.

Neuse Charter School's Vision for local AIG program: Neuse Charter School strives to provide a program to meet the needs of the whole gifted child - academically, socially, and emotionally. We recognize a responsibility to meet the needs of learners who demonstrate unique academic and intellectual ability while seeking to provide an academically challenging and rigorous program. We also recognize that these students, who have unique abilities, have mastered many of the grade appropriate curricular standards, comprehend material quickly, and are able to think more abstractly and analytically than the average age appropriate student. We desire a program that will meet the needs of this unique learner through various content areas and to different degrees. We also desire to create a talent development program to allow access to enrichment opportunities for all students. This requires support and partnership between the school, a student's family members, and the community to enable these Academically and/or Intellectually (AIG) advanced learners to recognize their gifts and talents. We strive to support advanced learners through the use of scaffolded and differentiated structures that are recognized within the field of AIG. These will assist our unique learners to develop their individual natural interests, gifts, and talents and to build pathways to access college for all students.

FUNDING FOR LOCAL AIG PROGRAM (as of 2022)

State Funding	Local Funding	Grant Funding	Other Funding
* \$ 48,240.00	* \$ 0.00	* \$ 0.00	* \$ 0.00

Standard 1: Student Identification

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Standard 1: Student Identification

The LEA's student identification procedures for AIG are clear, equitable, and comprehensive and lead towards appropriate educational services.

*** Practice A**

Develops both screening and referral processes that lead to AIG identification at all grade levels. Provides opportunities for every student to show their strengths and talents.

A School-Based Committee for Gifted Education (SBCGE) team will be identified and include:

- a. LEA representative (Academy Leader or Academy Leader Designee)
- b. AIG coordinator
- c. General Education teacher(s)
- d. Exceptional Children's teacher(s)
- e. Parent/Community Member

The LEA has developed a screening and referral process for all students that includes the following:

1. Grades K-2 will have NWEA MAP scores screened and the top 10% will be recommended for continued observation and/or enrichment.
2. Grade 3-8 will have the top 5% of EOG scores and the top 10% of NWEA MAP scores screened for referral to the SBCGE to begin gathering more data to build a comprehensive learner profile. Both teachers and

parents/guardians may also nominate a student for further consideration, data collection, and the creation of a learner profile.

3. Grades 9-12 will have the top 10% of either Pre-ACT, Pre-SAT, ACT or SAT screened for referral to the SBCGE in order to make targeted recommendations for Learning Pathways.

*** Practice B**

Establishes a process and criteria for AIG student identification at all grade levels that provides multiple opportunities to reveal a student's aptitude, achievement, or potential to achieve. The criteria may include both qualitative and quantitative data in order to develop a comprehensive learner profile.

The LEA will focus identification on grades 3-10.

Grades K-2 will be screened and enrichment recommended for future talent development. Students in K – 2 that display extreme need will be addressed on an individualized basis.

Grades 3-10 – Once a student is enrolled in Neuse Charter School, the LEA will determine if a student has been previously/recently recognized as AIG through PowerSchool or other notification from a student's cumulative records.

- a. If identified and have been actively receiving services at another LEA (in NC or out of state):
 1. Communicate in written form with parents—letter or email
 2. Gather qualitative and quantitative information from student cumulative file, school/state databases
 3. Prepare a Differentiated Education Plan (DEP) for student
 4. Meet with parent/guardian of student to discuss placement and services
 5. Parent signature required on DEP before initial placement

b. If unidentified or previously identified through a different LEA, but had been either exited and/or not receiving services within the previous 12 months:

1. Nomination submitted to SBCGE (by previous school, teacher, parent/guardian)
2. Obtain parent/guardian consent to evaluate student for AIG—written consent
3. Notice of AIG Evaluation
4. Gather qualitative and quantitative data to create a comprehensive learner profile—including, but not limited to:

- i. EOG/EOC scores
- ii. NWEA MAP, or other achievement-based tests including but not limited to Pre-ACT, Pre-SAT, ACT, SAT
- iii. Qualitative learner profile (Google Form)
- iv. Observations (classroom performance, grades) and/or work samples
- v. Teacher Recommendation

5. SBCGE evaluates comprehensive learner profile to determine eligibility for implementation of services
6. Meet with parent/guardian of student to discuss eligibility and (if applicable) implementation of services

- i. If student's comprehensive learner profile does not indicate a need for AIG services, parent/guardian will be given written notice by the SBCGE.
- ii. If student's comprehensive learner profile does indicate a need for AIG services, a DEP will be prepared and shared with the parent/guardian.
- iii. Parent signature required on DEP before initial placement
- iv. Submit PowerSchool Reporting information

The LEA will review the following criteria for determination of student eligibility as Academically Gifted —Math (AM), —Reading (AR), Intellectually Gifted (IG), or Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AI) . NWEA MAP MAP assessments are representative examples of tests that may be considered by the SBCGE. These examples will not be the only established aptitude and achievement test indicators. The SBCGE reserves the right to create and/or expand acceptable criteria to include new/different assessments that will be inclusive of the LEA's demographics. Students who do not qualify for designation through the following criteria but demonstrate substantially high levels of accomplishment in math and/or reading can submit a portfolio to be evaluated using the Alternate Pathway criteria to the SBCGE.

a. Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG)

1. Student Achievement

- i. Student presenting with an achievement test (such as the NWEA MAP, etc.) scoring in the 90th percentile or higher in Math and/or Reading for their chronological age
- ii. Student scores in the top 95th percentile on College Readiness Assessments and/or EOG and EOCs

2. Classroom Performance (identified by school appointed staff member)

- i. Student exhibiting potential need as evidenced by current year's grade for subject area, benchmark/common assessment data, work samples (2 work samples per area of suggested need (REQUIRED grade 3-5, OPTIONAL grade 6-8)

3. Qualitative Observation

- i. Completed observations/checklists that targets gifted behaviors seen during school (by school appointed staff member) and outside of school (parent/guardian)
4. Students fulfilling the previous criteria will be designated as Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) in the area(s) that their comprehensive learner profile data supports.

b. Academically Gifted—Math and/or Reading (AG)

1. Student Achievement

- i. Student presenting with an achievement test (such as the NWEA MAP, etc.) scoring in the 90th percentile or higher in Math and/or Reading
- ii. Student scores in the 95th percentile or higher on the previous/current year's EOG/EOC
- iii. Student scores in the top 95th percentile on College Readiness Assessments.

2. Classroom Performance

- i. Student exhibiting potential need as evidenced by current year's grade for subject area, benchmark/common assessment data, work samples (2 work samples per area of suggested need (REQUIRED grade 3-5,

OPTIONAL grade 6-8)

3. Qualitative Observation

- i. Completed observations/checklists that targets gifted behaviors seen during school (by staff member) and outside of school (parent/guardian)
4. Students fulfilling the previous criteria will be designated as Academically Gifted (AG) in the area(s) that their comprehensive learner profile data supports.

c. Intellectually Gifted (IG)

1. Student Aptitude

- i. Student presenting with an aptitude test (such as the CogAt, etc.) scoring in the 97th percentile or higher in Math and/or Reading
- ii. Full Composite score (VQN) will be used to designate Intellectually Gifted (IG) for both Reading and Math if CogAT score submitted
- iii. Partial Composite score (VN) will be used to designate IG in the area of Reading or Partial Composite score (QN) will be used to designate IG in the area of Math if CogAT score submitted

2. Classroom Performance

- i. Student exhibiting potential need as evidenced by current year's grade for subject area, benchmark/common assessment data, work samples (2 work samples per area of suggested need (REQUIRED grade 3-5, OPTIONAL grade 6-8)

3. Qualitative Observation

- i. Completed observations/checklists that targets gifted behaviors seen during school (by staff member) and outside of school (parent/guardian)

4. Students fulfilling the previous criteria will be designated as Intellectually Gifted (IG) in the area(s) that their comprehensive learner profile data supports.

d. Alternate Pathway with Portfolio submission for Academically Gifted (AG)

1. Comprehensive learner profile will be submitted along with a portfolio containing all of the following for the SBCGE to evaluate:

- i. Four (4) work samples per area of designation (math or reading)
 - a. Evidence of Higher Order Thinking (HOT) in the “analyze”, “evaluate”,
 - b. “create” range of New Bloom’s Taxonomy requested
- ii. Three (3) additional samples per area of designation (math or reading) Evidence of high achievement (90% or higher)



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*** Practice C**

Ensures AIG screening, referral, and identification procedures respond to under-represented populations of the gifted and are responsive to LEA demographics. These populations include students who are culturally/ethnically diverse, economically disadvantaged, English language learners, highly gifted, and twice-exceptional.

The LEA recognizes and encourages its diverse populations to both achieve and excel. As of the 2021-2022 school year, our demographics include (approximately):

1. Caucasian/White 66.9%
2. Black/African American 13.1%
3. Asian/Pacific Islander 0.6%

4. Hispanic/Latino 12%

5. Multiracial 6.4%

6. American Indian .8%

Within our LEA, approximately 3% are designated as English language learners, and 11% are supported through the Exceptional Children's department. Due to the NC Charter School Lottery System, our school demographics have the capability of changing on a yearly basis. We will continue to monitor and analyze sub-group data and target underserved populations for nomination and referral. Students are expected to participate in NWEA MAP testing, and EOG/EOC testing. Performance on these assessments will be used as initial screening agents for K – 8th grade students, which include those sub-groups that are traditionally under-represented (culturally/ethnically diverse, economically disadvantaged, English language learners, highly gifted, and twice-exceptional). PSAT, ACT, and SAT performance will be used as initial screening agents for grades 9-12, which include those sub-groups that are traditionally under-represented (culturally/ethnically diverse, economically disadvantaged, English language learners, highly gifted, and twice-exceptional).

Additional depth may be necessary for screening and/or nomination of students who are under-represented, English language learners, transient, economically disadvantaged, or have an identified disability. Our goal is to identify and serve all eligible students. The LEA will create a data baseline during this first year and will use that for comparison purposes moving forward.

Additional professional development will be provided to expand staff understanding of what giftedness can “look” like and tackle common misperceptions.

*** Practice D**

Monitors the screening, referral, and identification processes for consistent implementation across the LEA.

The LEA has created measures to implement appropriate screening and identification for the majority of gifted students. Within the LEA, students will be screened using available standardized and growth-based assessments to monitor student performance/potential for performance and exhibited characteristics of gifted learners.

Most gifted and highly gifted students are identified through the use of traditional aptitude and achievement measures coupled with various qualitative measures. We recognize that academically and intellectually gifted students come from all ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic groups and that they are gifted in a wide range of academic and/or intellectual abilities. The process used to identify students in need of gifted services must be ongoing, reliant on multiple measures, free of bias, and non-exclusionary. In an effort to provide equity, the LEA must be clear and consistent in its practices. We understand that there may be disproportionate representation of various subgroups within the school-based population. This may be compounded by the yearly NC Charter School Lottery's potential to change the school's overall demographics. As a result, we intend to use all screening, nomination, and direct referral avenues available to serve gifted students.

The LEA will also increase the overall staff participation in the student nomination process and conduct a yearly internal audit of AIG records to ensure consistent processes. This audit will include monitoring volume of student referrals versus identified students per grade level, number and types of referrals (teacher, family, self—student), student participation in enrichment/extension & yearly progress, etc.

*** Practice E**

Disseminates information regarding the screening, referral, and identification processes to school personnel, parents/families, students, and the community-at-large

The LEA will create and utilize an “AIG Parent Guide” that will include the following information:

1. Neuse Charter School Academically or Intellectually Gifted Program general information
2. General school population screening process
3. Nomination and Referral process for determining gifted services eligibility
4. Services provided for identified AIG students

The LEA will also create and maintain an electronic-based resource that shares general information and announcements that pertain to the school's AIG program and other related/relevant information for the community-at-large. This may be shared through a parent newsletter and/or parent information meetings throughout the school year.

Professional development will also be utilized for all teachers and other stakeholders outlining the current screening, nomination, referral, and identification procedures yearly.

*** Practice F**

Documents a student's AIG identification process and evidence which leads to an identification decision. This documentation is reviewed with parents/families and maintained in student records.

The LEA will create and keep individual files for each student who has been nominated, evaluated, and has/had services provided for while at Neuse Charter School. Documentation can include:

1. Comprehensive learner profile
2. Qualitative data/observations
3. Quantitative data—aptitude & achievement assessment scores
4. Permission to Evaluate
5. Initial Differentiated Education Plan (DEP)
6. Yearly Progress Monitoring of DEP

Student identification process results will be reviewed with parents after initial identification. The LEA's AIG program coordinator and a SBCGE member will review all student documentation yearly and will maintain all active student records.

A copy of student progress monitoring will be sent home to parents at least once per academic year and they may request to meet with a representative of the SBCGE to discuss student progress, questions, and/or issues at any point.

*** Ideas for Strengthening the Standard**

As NCS begins the AIG plan implementation we will closely monitor the K-2 screening process and our record-keeping regarding methods for continued observation and/or enrichment.

Planned Sources of Evidence

* Test scores

* Teacher observations and record keeping

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Documents

Type	Document Template	Document/Link
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AIG Standard 1 Additional Resources	N/A	
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Standard 2: Comprehensive Programming within a Total School Community

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Standard 2: Comprehensive Programming within a Total School Community

The LEA provides a K-12 AIG program with an array of services by the total school community to meet the diverse academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted learners. These services will develop students' strengths through intentional learning experiences in various domains that are not dependent on the students' demographic background or economic means.

*** Practice A**

Delivers an AIG program with comprehensive services that address the academic and intellectual needs of gifted learners, across all grade levels and learning environments through collaboration with a variety of personnel. Services are aligned to students' advanced learning needs and AIG identification.

The LEA will deliver services for Academically and Intellectually Gifted students that are comprehensive in nature and address the unique learning needs of our gifted population. This will be accomplished by using differentiated curricula that enriches and extends the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCoS) and instructional opportunities directed toward the unique needs of the gifted learner.

Students who demonstrate need based on their area of giftedness in Mathematics, Reading, or both content areas can be served in the following ways:

1. Grade K – 2nd flexible grouping in both Math & Reading, differentiated small group activities in both Math & Reading
2. Grade 3rd – 5th cluster grouping, flexible grouping, differentiated small group extension (Math, Reading, Science)

3. Grade 6th - 8th flexible grouping and advanced level class (Math only), differentiated small group extension (Math, Reading, Science) in dedicated, scheduled blocks throughout the day.

Gifted learners may also participate in activities that will help encourage the development of critical thinking, collaboration, leadership, problem-solving, and social communication. STEM/STEAM - based activities, Socratic learning, academic competitions, and student-led projects & conferences are all several ways that these students can develop in a holistic manner. Staff will be given access to student DEPs so that they may differentiate classroom instruction. Specified staff will help provide direct and indirect support for regular education teachers to better meet the needs of gifted learners through consultation, coaching, staff-wide professional development, and resource development and support.



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*** Practice B**

Delivers an AIG program with comprehensive services that address the social and emotional needs of gifted learners, across all grade levels and learning environments through collaboration with a variety of personnel based on student needs.

AIG services are connected with other instructional areas through the interweaving of extension and enrichment of the NCSCoS. This can be achieved through the regular education teacher differentiating topics, content, and activities during each unit of instruction. It can also be supported through after school activities that support and enrich grade level curriculum.

*** Practice C**

Integrates and connects the AIG program and services with the district's priorities and resources through policy and practice.

The LEA uses both quantitative data (NWEA MAP, EOG/EOC) and classroom observations to support various grouping strategies.

In K – 7th grade, AIG students will be clustered in the general education classroom with at least 6 students per cluster. This will allow gifted students the ability to work with like-minded individuals on differentiated curriculum activities and/or centers. Every identified student functions at different levels in their area(s) of giftedness depending on the higher- level thinking skills that are being supported. Students will be moved flexibly according to classroom assessment data, observed area of need, and identified area of giftedness. This will allow student growth in both the content area identified and the level of higher level thinking being integrated.

In 8th grade, AIG students will be enrolled in higher level courses determined by quantitative data (NWEA MAP/EOG) and area of giftedness.

In grades 6-12, AIG students are challenged through our honors courses, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, NCVPS (North Carolina Virtual Public Schools), NCSSM IVC (North Carolina School of Science and Math), CDM (Credit for Demonstrated Mastery) and CCP (Career and College Promise). Scheduling recognizes single subject AIG identification such as AR (Academically Gifted Reading only) and AM (Academically Gifted Math only) and tailors the schedules of those children to match their academic needs. The AIG department, along with the Director of Academics, Administrators and Guidance Counselors, provides direct consultation with grade-level and content-level interdisciplinary teams to support instruction, as well as the social and emotional needs of gifted students.

*** Practice D**

Develops procedures for intentional, flexible grouping practices to facilitate the achievement and growth of AIG and other students with advanced learning needs.

Staff will be notified regarding placement of student DEPs from specified staff members. A copy of a student's DEP will reside within the Cumulative Record folder and appropriate teachers will receive notification of a student's identified area(s) of giftedness.

The LEA will provide staff with a professional development presentation regarding common vocabulary used, local AIG plan components that impact regular and exceptional children teachers, procedures for nominating and referring students for AIG, and types of services that can be provided for elementary, middle and high school students. Specified staff will attend grade level meetings (K – 8th) and department meetings (9th- 12th) at least monthly to discuss instructional services being provided, support in-class differentiation, provide resources, and support data usage in relation to flexible grouping.

*** Practice E**

Informs all teachers, school administrators, and support staff about delivery of differentiated services and instruction for AIG students, regulations related to gifted education, and the local AIG program and plan.

The LEA will provide a specified member of the SBCGE to attend both "end of year" (EOY) and "beginning of year" (BOY) grade level meetings for staff serving grades 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and department meetings (6th - 9th). These specific grade levels include major transitions for students. These meetings will include:

1. EOY

1. Discussing student progress on currently identified students to create an EOY summary of services
2. Potential nominations for the following school year
3. Suggestions for needed support/resources
4. 8th grade identified students will have final progress recorded on their DEPs to be placed in appropriate cumulative record files.

2. BOY

1. Discussing grade level students who are currently identified and their area(s) of identification/need
2. Potential nominations for the current school year
3. Requests for coaching, differentiated activity/lesson support, modeling "questioning" based on levels of higher order thinking
4. Discuss service models (current & changes)

Staff in all other grades will meet with specific staff for BOY meetings and one time per month for continued support.

*** Practice F**

Communicates among and between teachers and schools to ensure an effective continuation of K-12 services, especially at key transition points.

The LEA addresses the social and emotional needs of AIG students through the use of "Morning Meeting" (elementary) and scheduled Enrichment and Extension periods (middle and high school). Through the use of cluster grouping (K – 7th) and advanced level courses (8th- 12th), gifted learners are able to be around like-minded individuals who will be more supportive in group work and share their intellectual processing capabilities.

The school counselor can specifically meet with gifted students at least two times each school year to "check-in" with how they are doing and/or lead small groups for children on various topics that affect the gifted child.

Finally, a member of the SBCGE can meet with grade level and department staff to discuss current issues that may affect the gifted child.

*** Practice G**

Develops policies and procedures for a variety of acceleration opportunities, including compacted content, Credit by Demonstrated Mastery, dual enrollment, subject and/or grade acceleration.

The LEA currently allows for content differentiation in grades K – 8th. This content differentiation opportunity is offered to students who show great need for access to content above the current enrolled grade level per a student's DEP.

Advanced level content with extension into a next year's content is available for students who show above average need for access to content above the current enrolled grade level per a student's DEP.

This could materialize as differentiated centers (K –2nd), "extension" of current NCSCoS, or being enrolled in an "advanced" section of Mathematics (6th - 12th) or a compacted section of English in grades (6th-8th) and "advanced" sections in grades 9th-12th.

Due to the school's Charter School status and student enrollment based on a lottery system, the availability of a teacher-led compacted course (6th - 8th) depends on the number of students who need compacting and the availability of staffing.

An alternate option through North Carolina Virtual Public Schools or similar style electronic resource, may be provided if volume of student need does not allow for staffing of a course.

Whole grade acceleration will be considered when a student has shown extreme need for curriculum access that cannot be attained through the majority of the student's current enrolled grade per a student's DEP.

NCS, being a K-12 school, is able to offer Credit by Demonstrated Mastery as a potential avenue for further review.

*** Practice H**

Develops mindsets, policies, and practices to promote equity and excellence by broadening access to advanced learning opportunities through a variety of intentional efforts, including talent development, at all grade levels.

The LEA uses quantitative data points (EOG/EOC scores, NWEA MAP scores, PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.) to inform placement for classes, courses, and small group extension of NCSCOS.

Staff purposefully monitors student data (including sub groups) and placement so that students are appropriately challenged and can grow in both their areas of strength and need. If a student's data (and/or qualitative observations) show that a new placement needs to be considered, then regardless of sub-group, the LEA will work to find a new placement and appropriate support that will continue to challenge, develop, and grow students.

*** Practice I**

Enhances and further develops the needs, talents, and interests of AIG students through extra-curricular programming.

The LEA encourages all students to participate in extracurricular activities. The school offers after school enrichment classes that vary based on staff availability to offer.

Other activities/clubs are offered for students to participate in such as Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olympiad, Battle of the Books, Poetry Slam, Book Buddies, etc. These groups and activities foster both academic and intellectual interest of gifted students by allowing choice to integrate into student capability.

NCS will need to develop additional opportunities (campus wide community service etc).

Extracurricular activities and projects are showcased through staff meetings, parent newsletters, and display throughout the school.

*** Ideas for Strengthening the Standard**

NCS will continuously reevaluate on-campus course and extracurricular offerings, as well as continuously evaluate the placement of courses within the master schedule to maximize opportunities for students.

Planned Sources of Evidence

* Course offerings

* Extracurricular offerings

* Student schedules

Documents

Type	Document Template	Document/Link
AIG Standard 2 Additional Resources	N/A	

Standard 3: Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction

Neuse Charter School (51A) Charter District - FY 2022 - Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted Plan, 2022-2025 - Rev 0

Standard 3: Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction

The LEA employs challenging, rigorous, and relevant curriculum and instruction to accommodate a range of academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of K-12 gifted learners.

*** Practice A**

Adapts the NC Standard Course of Study (SCOS) K-12 to address a range of advanced ability levels in language arts, mathematics, and other content areas as appropriate through the use of differentiation strategies, including enrichment, extension, and acceleration.

The LEA supports staff implementation of the NCSCOS and differentiated curricula/instructional opportunities directed toward the unique needs of the gifted learner. Staff will provide enrichment and extension of the NCSCOS in Language Arts and Mathematics. Further, these staff members will work within the general education classroom to increase student critical thinking, tier assignments, and provide differentiated activities.

Students who require more support beyond extending/enriching the current grade level curriculum can participate in compacted mathematics (K – 7th) or receive a more advanced level of replacement content to support acceleration in English Language Arts and mathematics (8th grade). As students transition to high school, they will be advised to enroll in Honors, AP and CCP courses.

*** Practice B**

Employs diverse and effective instructional practices according to students' identified abilities, readiness, interests, and learning profiles to address a range of learning needs at all grade levels.

The LEA supports instructional practices for the advanced learner. This includes a variety of models that will help provide a continuum of services for students.

1. K – 2nd -- Staff will use differentiated centers (where appropriate), flexible grouping of students by both need and interest, periodic SBCGE staff collaboration for push-in support.
2. 3rd - 5th --Cluster grouping to allow for differentiated centers (where appropriate), flexible grouping of students by both need and interest for activities, periodic staff collaboration/co-teaching (when available).
3. 6th - 8th -- Advanced level/ compacted course work (Mathematics and English Language Arts), flexible grouping of students by both need and interest for activities in the regular education classroom, small group extension/enrichment class.

These varied strategies will help increase rigor, depth, complexity, sophistication, and abstractness for gifted learners throughout the day.

*** Practice C**

Incorporates a variety of evidence-based resources that enhance student learning.

The LEA subscribes to the use of a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC), ELA, Wonders (K-5th), StudySync (6th-8th), Eureka Math (K-5th) . In an effort to allow all students (including all sub groups) access to appropriate curriculum that meets their needs, students will be provided with knowledgeable staff that will help support student growth within the area(s) of identified giftedness.

*** Practice D**

Fosters the development of future-ready skills including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, curiosity, and leadership.

The LEA will help foster the development of future-ready skills through ProblemBased Learning (PrBL) scenarios, Project-Based Learning (PBL), and service-based learning. Students learn how to use critical thinking, the importance

of collaboration, communication, and leadership skills while applying to real-world scenarios and community service projects.

*** Practice E**

Uses ongoing assessment, both formative and summative, to differentiate classroom curriculum and instruction and inform flexible grouping practices.

The LEA uses both formative and summative assessments to support appropriate differentiation within the classroom as well appropriate placement within flexible groups. Classroom discussion, common assessments, NWEA MAP, EOG/EOC, PSAT, SAT, and ACT data help staff support both proficiency and growth within the school community.

Other indicators that can support appropriate differentiation and inform flexible grouping is the use and analysis of pre-assessments for different content areas.

*** Practice F**

Addresses the social and emotional needs of AIG students through affective curricular and instructional practices.

The LEA integrates Second Step- a social/ emotional support curriculum (K - 8th) to help build a connection between a student's academic and socio-emotional needs. The Director of Student Services and school counselor are also available to support grade levels with specific topic-based activities, student meetings, and individual student support.

*** Practice G**

Cultivates and develops the potential of young (K-3) students with early intervention and talent development opportunities through purposeful and intentional differentiated curriculum and instruction.

The LEA supports the talent development of younger students through the use of differentiated centers and compacted instruction for mathematics (when need is apparent).

Professional development opportunities for K – 3 staff will also be integrated that specifically targets gifted behaviors for this age group and how to foster creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking.

*** Practice H**

Develops and implements differentiated curriculum and instruction that addresses the academic and intellectual needs of gifted learners, across all grade levels, through collaboration with a variety of personnel based on student needs.

The LEA encourages collaboration among regular education, AIG personnel, and exceptional children staff to help develop and implement curriculum that meets the needs of all students. Over time, a body of differentiated units per grade level or department will be created and modified to help support all staff's efforts to extend, enrich, and increase student critical thinking. During PLCs, staff will periodically integrate a reflective process (with support from a SBCGE member) to self-check on progress with differentiation within their classes/content areas. This will allow time and viable openings for more resources, coaching, and support.

*** Practice I**

Develops and documents a student plan that articulates the differentiated curriculum and instruction services that match the identified needs of the K-12 AIG student, such as a Differentiated Education Plan (DEP). This document is reviewed annually with parents/guardians to ensure effective programming, provide a continuum of services, and support school transitions.

The LEA has developed a DEP document that will record a student's identification as well as their service plan. Progress monitoring will be recorded at least one time per school year. Student DEPs will be reviewed annually by a representative of the SBCGE and overall progress sent home for parents/families to review.

NCS will compile a differentiated lesson/ unit library, activities, centers, questions stems, etc. for different grade levels/ content areas to access for added professional support with differentiation.

Staff will integrate consistent pre-assessment for units of instruction to inform flexible grouping.

NCS will create an online professional library with staff access to books and other resources to help support education of gifted learners.

*** Ideas for Strengthening the Standard**

NCS will provide on-going curriculum implementation support to all staff to ensure a high level of instruction for all students.

Planned Sources of Evidence

* Formative assessments

* Summative assessments

* PD offerings

Documents

Type	Document Template	Document/Link
AIG Standard 3 Additional Resources	N/A	

Standard 4: Personnel and Professional Development

Neuse Charter School (51A) Charter District - FY 2022 - Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted Plan, 2022-2025 - Rev 0

Standard 4: Personnel and Professional Development

The LEA recruits and retains highly qualified professionals and provides relevant and effective professional development concerning the diverse needs of gifted learners that is ongoing and comprehensive.

*** Practice A**

Employs an AIG-licensed educator as lead coordinator to guide, plan, develop, implement, revise, and monitor the local AIG program and plan.

The LEA will employ at least one AIG – licensed educator as lead coordinator to guide, plan, develop, implement, revise, and monitor the local plan. The AIG Coordinator's roles and responsibilities include:

1. Developing, monitoring, and evaluating the local AIG plan
2. Overseeing the screening, referral, and identification process for the LEA
3. Monitoring implementation of program services and AIG personnel
4. Providing professional development opportunities and resources to support staff
5. Developing partnerships within the community to support the AIG program
6. Maintain documentation of the student identification process for the LEA
7. Providing leadership and advocacy for the needs of AIG learners
8. Participate in professional development opportunities and regional/state-wide meetings to support gifted programs

9. Facilitate periodic meetings to ensure the needs of gifted learners are being met consistently throughout the LEA

*** Practice B**

Engages AIG-licensed specialists in tasks that explicitly address the academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of K-12 gifted learners.

The LEA encourages AIG supporting personnel to obtain add-on licensure for AIG (K – 12) in an effort to continue providing the highest level of support for both students and other staff.

AIG personnel supporting elementary students will directly provide services at least 25 minutes per week per area of identification (mathematics or reading) to students through either "pushing in" to a classroom to support the classroom teacher and students with differentiation and extension activities or "pulling out" students to work on extension activities or provide enrichment. AIG personnel supporting middle grades students will directly support through "pushing in" to core content areas (ELA, Math, Science, and/or Social Studies) for specific activities, or "pulling out" for an extension/enrichment class. AIG personnel (K – 12th) will also provide indirect support by providing resources to teachers, staff, and families. The LEA will continue to monitor, evaluate, and revise job descriptions and duties to ensure the most effective utilization of resources and provisions for services to students.

*** Practice C**

Establishes specific and appropriate professional development requirements for all personnel involved in AIG programs and services, including classroom teachers, instructional specialists, student services personnel, and school administrators.

The LEA supports continuing education for all staff members. A yearly survey will be conducted to help determine the direction for staff development training with AIG emphasis. AIG personnel will help provide targeted professional development based on the interest and/or needs of staff.

*** Practice D**

Provides general education services by personnel who have earned an AIG add-on license or have met the LEA requirements for that position.

The LEA supports students being cluster grouped or flexibly grouped in the regular education setting for differentiated instruction. Students are assigned to clusters based on similar needs and on their identification in Language Arts and/or Mathematics.

Differentiated curriculum and instruction is provided in the clusters to AIG students by either an AIG certified staff member or an alternate member that meets the LEA requirement. The classroom teachers and the AIG teacher will work together to align appropriate instruction for AIG students.

Flexible grouping allows for modification of curriculum and instruction according to ability, readiness levels, learning styles, and/or interest of students. This grouping may include flexible in-class or across-class for differentiated activities or units.

Students may be pre-assessed to form groups based upon common and specific needs in specific curricular areas.

*** Practice E**

Develops strategies for the recruitment and retention of AIG-licensed professionals, including those of diverse backgrounds.

The LEA's overall goal for the AIG program is to assist our gifted students in expanding their knowledge base while becoming life-long learners and productive citizens in a globally competitive world. To support this goal, local professional development (PD) initiatives will take into account the AIG perspective.

The LEA will also connect the needs of gifted learners with school improvement planning and align PD activities accordingly with current best practices in gifted education. Staff will have access to any NCAAT offerings for differentiation as well as local professional development regarding basic differentiation, the gifted student mind, and any other requested topics.

*** Practice F**

Provides focused professional learning opportunities to realize equity and excellence in gifted education including changing mindsets, policies, and practices.

The LEA supports staff collaboration within departments and across grade levels. Common planning time daily has been made available for AIG Personnel to support both students and staff with implementation of differentiated curriculum and for coaching.

The LEA also supports attending off-campus professional development seminars for AIG staff to help keep knowledge of "best practices" current. This information can then be shared with regular staff.

*** Practice G**

Aligns professional development opportunities with local AIG program goals, other district initiatives, and best practices in gifted education with opportunities to refine applications of professional learning.

The LEA provides on-going AIG professional development provided by the on-campus licensed AIG instructor and teacher-leaders.

Trainings will be aligned with the NCS Strategic Plan, adopted curricula, and needs as indicated by teachers.

*** Ideas for Strengthening the Standard**

Encourage staff members to obtain their AIG licensure
Seek funding opportunities to help fund AIG licensure for interested staff members

Planned Sources of Evidence

- * Survey results
- * PD offerings for staff development of AIG instruction
- * AIG Plan revisions

Type	Document Template	Document/Link
AIG Standard 4 Additional Resources	N/A	

Standard 5: Partnerships

Neuse Charter School (51A) Charter District - FY 2022 - Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted Plan, 2022-2025 - Rev 0

Standard 5: Partnerships

The LEA ensures ongoing and meaningful participation of stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the local AIG program to develop strong partnerships.

*** Practice A**

Develops intentional, two-way partnerships with parents/guardians to support the following needs of AIG students:

- academic and intellectual
- social and emotional.

The LEA's AIG personnel will solicit feedback regarding parental expectations of Neuse Charter School's AIG program in an effort to determine stakeholders' wishes and to gather talking points for discussion during a SBCGE meeting.

AIG personnel will be available during Open House/Meet the Teacher to help foster a sense of community and accountability between the school and families.

The LEA will also host an NCS Roundtable that will give generalized information for the academic year and allow for a "question/answer" time for parents. This two-way interaction helps develop a bond between school and family that supports not only academic/intellectual needs at school, but a social/emotional need for support and security at home with families.

*** Practice B**

Partners with community stakeholders, such as institutions of higher education, local business and industry partners, and others to enhance and support the local AIG program and services.

The LEA will post a link to the school's AIG plan submitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI). The school's website will also include general information regarding the nomination and evaluation process, and general methods of servicing students who are identified as gifted.

In collaboration with support staff and administration, our AIG staff will strive to have more informative meetings with parents regarding expectations of each school stakeholder. In addition, a parent handbook for AIG students and families will be shared with families electronically (paper copy will be provided when necessary).

*** Practice C**

Establishes and utilizes an advisory group to develop, implement, monitor, and revise the local AIG program and plan. This advisory group is representative of the diverse populations of the district and is at least comprised of community members, AIG parents/guardians, AIG teachers, and other instructional and support staff.

The LEA has established a School-Based Committee for Gifted Education (SBCGE) composed of an Academy Leader or Academy Leader designee, AIG coordinator, General Education teacher(s), Exceptional Children's teacher(s), and Parent/Community Member(s). The committee will meet at least once per academic quarter to discuss the needs of AIG students, direction of the AIG program, review new comprehensive learner profiles that have been submitted for referral, and discuss any other issue/questions that arise. This group of individuals will meet over multiple sessions to discuss basic needs of the LEA and how they could be met through the AIG school plan.

*** Practice D**

Informs all students, parents/guardians, and the community of the following:

- Local AIG Plan
- Local AIG program services
- Policies relating to advanced learning and gifted education
- Ways to access opportunities available to AIG students

Communication is ongoing and responds to the diverse language needs of the community.

The LEA utilizes all avenues of communication at its disposal. AIG information will be posted on the school's website and included in the weekly parent newsletter (when applicable). Written information may be translated into a person's chosen language (when needed).

The school's Parent Ambassadors (PA) provides an avenue for regular communication regarding activities that may involve AIG families.

Our school also continues to form partnerships with local businesses that take an interest in our school community. These relationships allow the school-family-community partnership to increase accountability within the AIG program.

*** Ideas for Strengthening the Standard**

As one of the fastest growing development areas in NC, new opportunities are created almost daily. Therefore, NCS will continue to connect and build community relationships and partnerships.

Planned Sources of Evidence

- * Newsletters
- * Parent survey data
- * Evidence of community partnerships (pictures, letters, press releases, etc.)

Documents		
Type	Document Template	Document/Link
AIG Standard 5 Additional Resources	N/A	

Standard 6: Program Accountability

Neuse Charter School (51A) Charter District - FY 2022 - Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted Plan, 2022-2025 - Rev 0

Standard 6: Program Accountability

The LEA implements, monitors, and evaluates the local AIG program and plan to ensure that all programs and services are effective in meeting the diverse academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted learners.

*** Practice A**

Develops a written AIG plan to describe the local AIG program, in accordance with state legislation and SBE policy (N.C.G.S. § 115C-150.5-8 [Article 9B]), which has been approved by the local board of education and sent to SBE/DPI for review and comment.

The LEA created a team composed of a LEA representative (Academy Leader or Academy Leader's designee), AIG representative, General Education teacher, Exceptional Children's advocate, and a Parent/Community Member.

The team will discuss the overall Current State of Affairs data and begin developing overall policies and discussing AIG plan specifics regarding identification and service models.

Over several months of time, the initial AIG Planning team will meet to discuss each standard and the LEAs response to each part of the standards. The local plan will be presented before the LEA's board for approval in February 2022.

Once approved, the local AIG plan will be submitted to NCDPI for comment.

(NCS BoD approved this plan on 2/22/2022.)

*** Practice B**

Monitors the implementation of the local AIG program and plan in accordance with current legislation and state policies

to ensure fidelity of implementation for all AIG program components.

The LEA will have the AIG Coordinator monitor overall progress toward consistent implementation of the local AIG Plan. The coordinator will work with other personnel within the SBCGE to support compliance and ensure fidelity of implementation.

NCS staff will be surveyed regarding the consistency of their personal implementation and request feedback for how AIG personnel can better support regular education staff. The AIG coordinator will complete reporting to NCDPI.

*** Practice C**

Develops and monitors a budget using allotted state funds, and local funds if applicable, to address the needs of the local AIG plan in accordance with state policy.

The LEA does not have a specific fund allocated for AIG. All monies come from the General Fund and necessary expenditures will be tracked when used for AIG students and AIG Plan implementation. Available funds will be utilized for AIG professional development, building a professional resource library, student programs, projects, and supplies/materials that align with NCSCOS and the AIG plan. The AIG coordinator will look into other avenues for funding (such as grants and sponsorships) to add financial support for the local AIG Plan.

*** Practice D**

Maintains and analyzes multiple sources of student achievement and growth data, as well as annual dropout data for AIG students. Data is disaggregated to recognize patterns and trends over time and inform mindsets, policies, and practices for equity and excellence.

The LEA requests that the AIG coordinator gather, analyze, and share AIG student growth and achievement data with all school staff. Once data has been compiled from NWEA MAP, EOG/EOC, PSAT, SAT, and ACT data, this data will be used to look at growth within traditionally underserved populations and to inform future talent development efforts, monitor areas of continuing need, and determine future program offerings.

*** Practice E**

Maintains and analyzes multiple data sources focused on the referral, identification, services, and retention of students within the local AIG program to ensure that students' racial, ethnic, economic, or other demographic factors, including other exceptionalities and language differences, do not reduce their likelihood of access to and participation in gifted education.

With assistance from the LEA's administration, the AIG coordinator will monitor and collect data regarding the school's changing demographics with concentration on traditionally under-represented population sub-group performance patterns and their unique needs. Once data has been collected and analyzed, the results will be brought back to the SBCGE to discuss any disproportionality of representation and additional ways to refer, identify, and serve these students within the community.



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*** Practice F**

Maintains and utilizes current data regarding the credentials of personnel serving K-12 AIG students to align with the goals and strategies outlined in the local AIG plan.

The LEA will maintain licensure records and evidence of continuing education for all staff working with AIG students. These documents are available for review by relevant stakeholder groups, as appropriate. Administrators will seek to give priority to potential personnel who have AIG licensure when positions become available. Additionally, the LEA encourages current staff to enroll in AIG certification programs and study toward passing local certification exams for AIG add-on licensure.

*** Practice G**

Elicits regular feedback from students, parents/guardians, families, teachers, and other stakeholders regarding the implementation and effectiveness of the local AIG program.

The LEA will request yearly feedback from AIG parents, AIG students, and classroom teachers of AIG identified students. Anecdotal data will also be collected through grade level and department meetings, parent meetings, surveys, and other avenues that share opinions. Those results will then be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the AIG Plan implementation and to make improvements for AIG services.

*** Practice H**

Facilitates a comprehensive evaluation of the local AIG program utilizing multiple sources of data to revise the local AIG plan every three years.

When evaluating the school's AIG program, multiple sources of data will be reviewed. Some data points that will be considered include: growth rates for AIG, EOG/EOC scores, and class grades for AIG students. These data points help support whether the current AIG Plan and Implementation have resulted in effective servicing of gifted students.

After areas of weakness are identified within the Plan and or service delivery from both quantitative and qualitative indicators, the SBCGE will discuss new/improved ways of consistently planning and serving students within the LEA.

*** Practice I**

Shares all data from local AIG program evaluation with school and district personnel, students, parents/guardians, families, and other community stakeholders.

The LEA's school leadership will conduct a stakeholder meeting at which a review of school performance data, including a breakdown of AIG performance is shared. Included in the performance data will be survey results and academic performance. In addition, the team will review how this data has informed the school's strategic plan and any resulting modifications to the AIG program that have been proposed to the board.

The community-at-large will be made aware of pertinent changes to the AIG plan or programming.

*** Practice J**

Safeguards the rights of all AIG students and their parents/guardians through established written policies, procedures, and practices. The LEA plan includes: informed consent regarding identification and placement, reassessment procedures, transfers from other LEAs, and procedures for resolving disagreements.

District policies exist that protect all students and their rights. In the event of a disagreement of AIG identification and/or services between parents and the LEA, parents have access to a step by step Resolution of Disagreements procedure. When parents fail to agree with a decision of the School-Based Committee for Gifted Education (SBCGE) regarding placement or services, the following procedures may be used for dispute resolution. These procedures are:

1. Parent submits a written request for a conference with the SBCGE. The Committee will meet with the parent to discuss the data and AIG Identification criteria. The AIG Coordinator or Administrator will communicate, in writing, the final outcome of meeting with parents and other team members. If no resolution occurs at the school level, the parent may proceed to step 2.
2. Parent(s) may appeal in writing to the Regional AIG Coordinator. The Regional AIG Coordinator will conduct a meeting and respond in writing to the parent concerning the outcome of the review. The written response will also be shared with the local SBCGE and the Academy Leader. At any point in the hierarchy of procedures, the LEA can recommend mediation with an impartial facilitator. When disputes are not settled at the local level, parents may file a petition for a contested case hearing under Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. All families have the right to informed consent for identification, informed consent for placement, alternate pathway evaluation (in cases where student qualitatively shows need, but quantitatively not necessarily), reassessment (when requested by parent/guardian), to be given provisional reciprocity when transferring from another LEA, and to have a procedure for resolving disagreements.



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* Ideas for Strengthening the Standard

NCS will seek timely feedback from parents about the effectiveness of the NCS AIG program.

Planned Sources of Evidence

* Parent feedback

* Grade level meeting notes

* AIG team meeting notes

Documents

Type	Document Template	Document/Link
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AIG Standard 6 Additional Resources	N/A	
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Local Board of Education Approval

Neuse Charter School (51A) Charter District - FY 2022 - Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted Plan, 2022-2025 - Rev 0

* Approved by local Board of Education on:

02/22/2022 



Original Application Submission Date: 06/21/2022

Documents

Type	Document Template	Document/Link
Local Board of Education Approval Signatures [Upload at least 1 document(s)]	 <u>Local Board of Education Approval Template</u>	 <u>NCS BoD AIG Approval</u>

AIG Related Documents

Neuse Charter School (51A) Charter District - FY 2022 - Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted Plan, 2022-2025 - Rev 0

Required Documents		
Type	Document Template	Document/Link
Local Board of Education Approval Signatures [Upload at least 1 document(s)]	 Local Board of Education Approval Template	 NCS BoD AIG Approval
Optional Documents		
Type	Document Template	Document/Link
AIG Glossary [Upload up to 1 document(s)]	N/A	
AIG Standard 1 Additional Resources	N/A	
AIG Standard 2 Additional Resources	N/A	
AIG Standard 3 Additional Resources	N/A	
AIG Standard 4 Additional Resources	N/A	
AIG Standard 5 Additional Resources	N/A	
AIG Standard 6 Additional Resources	N/A	

Glossary

Neuse Charter School (51A) Charter District - FY 2022 - Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted Plan, 2022-2025 - Rev 0

Phrase	Definition
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The Local AIG Plan glossary is provided in an uploaded document.