



APPENDIX 000-11-3
May 20, 2013

DATE: May 2, 2013

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Sue Schaar, TAG Coordinator

RE: TAG Compliance Update

I. Introduction

- A. Introduction: A letter from DPI, dated April 11, 2013, requires a compliance plan to be submitted to Dr. Sheila Briggs no later than May 31, 2013. Information attached outlines issues around which decisions have been made and areas still under discussion.
- B. Presenter: Sue Schaar
- C. Background Information: It was determined by DPI in Spring, 2011, that MMSD was out of compliance regarding services for advanced learners and was granted one year to be compliant. DPI revisited MMSD schools, parents and students in Fall, 2012, and determined that MMSD was compliant in two of the four areas but in only partial compliance in the remaining two areas. DPI has required a Compliance Plan, including timeline with benchmarks, to be submitted no later than May 31, 2013.

II. Summary of Current Information

- A. Synthesis of Topic: Outline of what has been agreed upon in the document and areas still under discussion.
- B. Recommendations: Information only.

III. Implications

- A. Budget: None immediately; if full compliance is not reached, DPI could withhold up to 25% of state aid from MMSD (as stated in the letter from DPI on April 11, 2013).
- B. Implications for the Organization: Full compliance is essential.

IV. Supporting Documentation

- A. TAG Update

TAG Update for the BOE, May 6, 2013

The Compliance Plan, including the timeline with benchmarks, is being drafted to outline the activities and processes that will take place in the next 13 months in order to bring MMSD into full compliance with DPI by May 31, 2014. A final document will be scheduled for Board review before the May 31, 2013 submission to DPI.

This document highlights areas of infrastructure that must be addressed as we move forward, including instructional design at the school level and consistent messaging from central office with measures of accountability incorporated. Clearly, our efforts in this area must be aligned with other improvement efforts as we move forward.

Issues around which decisions have been made:

- Fine Arts and TAG will be creating a portfolio system to be utilized in the identification processes in areas of Leadership, Creativity, and Visual/Performing Arts
- MMSD will incorporate the use of USTARS and utilize local norms into the identification processes for all 5 areas
- Professional development regarding the characteristics of advanced learners, including those from typically under-represented groups, will be accomplished at the local school level through a 45 minute DVD that the TAG department will create over the summer. This professional development should take place at all schools prior to winter break in 2013-14. Schools will have a menu of choices about how to deliver this PD.

Discussion is still occurring around:

- Incorporation of advanced interventions into multi-tiered system of support and how to incorporate in School Improvement Plans
- A review of consistent, qualitative difference between High School core courses and embedded and/or other Honors Courses as demonstrated by a review of the syllabi
- The tension between implementing interventions for advanced learners through clusters, flexible groups or enrichment periods coupled with differentiated instruction throughout the school day

In addition to the Compliance Plan, data will be presented to the BOE regarding numbers of students currently identified in IC as receiving interventions and the number of students who are suggested candidates for intervention in the Fall semester of 2013-14.