

## Check out these Professional Development Course Offerings from MSDE's Advanced Academics and Gifted/Talented Programs Branch!

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The Advanced Academics and Gifted/Talented Team is pleased to offer the following PD opportunities. We have both virtual and in-person offerings. We can also design PD customized to your specific needs!

### VIRTUAL

**Early Talent Development** – Early childhood teachers are asked to know and cultivate their students' gifts. How does a teacher identify gifts and talents while meeting instructional standards? This course marries two fields of study, early childhood and gifted education. Research and application of theories will yield participants' expertise in developing and assessing the strengths of every child including those with diverse needs and those of underserved populations. Sharing strategies will give way to revealing children's potential, such as creative, critical thinking, questioning, and problem-solving. Participants will increase observation skills while learning the needs of primary-age gifted students. The course will include extensive online discussion and reflection, as well as a summative assignment that incorporates REPI coding with an emphasis on sound justification.

**Foundations of Gifted and Talented Education** – This course introduces participants to basic understanding and concepts related to identifying GT students and supporting their growth and development. Participants will learn about characteristics of GT students from all backgrounds and communities. Additionally, they will investigate elements of social emotional learning and discover GT curriculum and best practice strategies. After completing this course, participants will be better positioned to support the needs of gifted students in the general education setting.

**Differentiation, Acceleration, and PBL for GT Students** – This course includes readings and webinars from experts providing a basic introduction and overview of Problem-Based Learning, Differentiation, and Acceleration strategies to meet the needs of gifted/talented students in the regular classroom. The course includes discussions, reflections, and culminates in applied practical task.

**Supporting Historically Underserved Students in GT** – This course includes readings and webinars from experts providing a basic introduction and overview strategies to identify and meet the needs of gifted students who live in rural poverty, gifted multilingual learners, and culturally-responsive pedagogical practices for gifted students from historically-underrepresented student groups. The course includes discussions, reflections, and culminates in applied practical tasks.

**Supporting Neurodivergence and Psychosocial Wellness Among GT Students** – This course includes readings and webinars from experts providing a basic introduction and overview of strategies to support Twice exceptional (2E) students and the healthy psychosocial and emotional development of GT students. The course includes discussions, reflections, and culminates in applied practical tasks.

## IN-PERSON

**Sustaining Early Talent Development** – This professional learning experience is a 2-hour session that expands on Primary Talent Development (PTD) concepts. This workshop helps participants apply early talent development into local curriculum and daily lessons. Individuals will leave this session able to spot and support early talent development while sustaining PTD programming.

**Gifted Programming: What? Why? How?** – This professional learning experience is a 2-hour session to dive deep into building evidence-based gifted programming that aligns with student achievement outcomes. Best suited for gifted programming teams with all levels of leadership from the classroom to central office, this activity walks participants through practical strategies that they can apply as they reflect on current programming practices.

## CUSTOM

**Have another idea concerning PD needs?** We are here to help! Below is a general idea of the process to request PD. Please reach out to Anthony Vargas at [anthony.vargas@maryland.gov](mailto:anthony.vargas@maryland.gov) with additional questions.

- Schedule a 30-minute initial meeting to go over the PD process particular to your needs with Anthony Vargas. At this time, we will review basic needs to determine if MSDE will create and deliver the PD, work in partnership with the LEA to create and deliver the PD, or support the LEA as they create and deliver the PD.
- Disseminate the PD needs assessment form to participants.
- After about 2 weeks, review the PD needs form and create an outline for the PL experience.
- PL project plan feedback and finalization. At this time, an additional virtual meeting might be scheduled.
- PD is delivered and a follow-up activity is determined for a later date.