

COMMUNICATION

San Juan BOCES regularly communicates with district gifted education liaisons through newsletters, emails and regional meetings held at least four times during the school year. District representatives are responsible for sharing information and communicating regularly with teachers, parents, students and administration.

The Regional Gifted Education Advisory Council is made up of representatives from each district. This committee meets regularly to foster common understandings and to make decisions through collaboration and consensus building. The coordinator of gifted education meets with representative teams in each member district as requested and provides personalized coaching and/or training.

Information regarding gifted education is provided to new teachers and administrators in the SJBOCES annual teacher induction program.

The main vehicle for communication is the SJBOCES Gifted Education website. As a result Regional Council members determine the contents of the SJBOCES Gifted Education website through on-going review. This review may take the form of an informal discussion or of gathering information from a variety of stakeholder groups through the administration of a program review survey. This process ensures relevancy, broad understanding and agreement, and enhances consistency within the AU. This website features the San Juan BOCES mission/vision, goals, budget, demographic and achievement data as well as expectations for identification procedures, programming, and the development and management of student Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs).

All districts are strongly encouraged to provide annual teacher orientations, and to provide information on their website to augment the SJBOCES website and district handbooks. Additionally, districts have goals to expand and tailor communication to the needs of specific stakeholder groups using a variety of media.

When appropriate, districts provide information and identification forms in Spanish and provide translators to improve communication.

Communication strategies used include: websites, Internet links, parent brochures and packets, parent meetings, parent advisory councils, newsletters, teacher packets, reporting to superintendents and boards of education, faculty meetings, parent and teacher “checklists”, school bulletins, faculty meetings, professional development trainings, professional development resources listed on SJBOCES website, Response to Intervention (RtI)/MSST meetings, parents conferences and Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) conferences.

Future steps to develop or improve Communication include:

1. Expand district communication with parents and community about gifted education programming through parent groups and networks.
2. Develop transparency of information at the district level regarding gifted education goals, identification processes, programming options and budget information.

3. Expand district level descriptions about the continuum of programming options in all categories of giftedness to ensure a smooth transition process from grade-to-grade and school level to school level.

4. Review and update ALP and referral practices to maximize parent, family and student engagement in gifted education processes, programming and monitoring.