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From: **Barata, Jose, L** <jlbarata@aacc.edu>
Date: Tue, Jul 25, 2017 at 1:05 PM
Subject: ESSA Comment
To: Bruce Riegel -MSDE- <bruce.riegel@maryland.gov>

Dear Dr. Riegel,

As a member of the Maryland State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education, I perused version 2 of the MD ESSA plan. I especially looked at some of the sections dealing with accountability. While the legalistic aspects of educational policy are by no means my forte, I did come away with an aspiration. I found myself wishing that gifted and talented students could be treated as an historically underserved group and their performance measured, accordingly, in their progress rather than grade level placement. For too long now, they have been allowed to languish by a system that places a priority for on-level placement in system achievement rubrics. When we have been enlightened or just thoughtful as a culture, we have opted to disaggregate historically underachieving groups, usually by race or ethnic or economic group, but again looking at grade level achievement. These most threatened groups, appropriately, are now being considered for performance improvement. Should not the gifted and talented be treated the same?

I apologize if this statement is not in the best developed policy-ese; I hope my intent is at least clear.

Warmest regards,

José

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