

## **Standard 6: Professional Education Unit Governance and Resources**

*The professional education unit has the leadership, authority, budget, personnel, facilities, and resources, including information technology resources, for the preparation of candidates to meet professional, state, and institutional standards.*

### **6a. Professional Education Unit Leadership and Authority**

North Georgia RESA has the leadership and authority to plan, deliver and operate the Gifted Endorsement Program. NGRESA is governed by a board of 7 superintendents from its member districts, 1 university president, and a representative from the library system. The Executive Director oversees all NGRESA programs. (**Organizational Chart**)

North Georgia RESA established a structure for governance of all Professional Learning services with articulated processes and procedures to which all RESA staff and its contracted services personnel must adhere. The NGRESA organizational structure includes the framework for assessing member systems' needs, determining programs or courses to be offered and the appropriate fees, publishing the information on the website, invoicing systems, maintaining quality in instruction, development, and all other services, and maintaining records.

With Core Team support, the NGRESA Staff interacts with the member systems' Professional Learning Directors and Curriculum Directors to collaborate on professional development issues with RESA staff on a monthly basis. These groups and others are important in the development, delivery and evaluation of RESA programs. Likewise, all NGRESA staff members are a vital part of staff meetings, have input in the governance of services, and are trained on effective leadership skills, creating professional learning communities, effective communication, team-building, service delivery, and other relevant issues.

NGRESA is recognized as a leader by other professional agencies such as the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and the Georgia Department of Education, as well as other state agencies and organizations that invite NGRESA personnel to serve on committees and to advise development of projects and programs. For example, the Core Team and NGRESA contracted consultants serve on teams to review the math and ELA Common Core Georgia Performance Standards, alternative teacher preparation programs, and GA DOE School Improvement services.

The Gifted Endorsement Program will be under the direct supervision of the Professional Learning Director with support from the instructors and primary collaborators (school districts). The Professional Learning Director is responsible for the following areas:

- Instructor selection, preparation, and evaluation (Training provided a veteran NGRESA Gifted Endorsement instructor )
- Administration of the Gifted Endorsement (e.g., participant registration, course materials,

budgeting, record-keeping, etc.)

- Gifted Endorsement program monitoring and instructor observations
- Gifted Endorsement program assessment and modification (in conjunction with course instructors)

All NGRESA faculty members are equipped with the technology needed to deliver and provide oversight to endorsement programs. A web-page is developed for each endorsement for ease of communication among NGRESA instructors and candidates. The websites post syllabi, evaluations, articles, and announcements. In addition, instructors communicate via email in a timely manner to respond to questions posed by candidates regarding assignments or other issues. Dalton State University's Educational Technology Center provides RESA team members with technology support for improving implementation and extension of NGRESA programs to a wider audience of educators. Further, all NGRESA training rooms are equipped with computers, LCD projectors, and internet access for daily instruction. The computer lab is often used to engage all participants in the use of technology during on-site instruction.

All books and materials required for the courses are housed at NGRESA in the professional learning department. In addition, a school district or NGRESA purchases resources needed for instructors. Area universities have copies of most of resources within their library systems. All on-line resources are readily accessible via the Internet, the endorsement web-page or actual leadership and teacher journals.

## **6b. Professional Education Unit Budget**

The NGRESA Gifted Endorsement Program receives no external funding for implementing this program. Therefore, the administration has set up a program that not only serves our RESA-wide endorsement classes, but local school-based endorsement classes. Instructors are paid based on their degree: Specialist degree receives \$2700 and Doctorate degree receives \$3000, to teach each 50-hour 5 PLU course. There is a \$225.00 charge per course for a total of \$900.00 for the complete endorsement.

There are two ways in which NGRESA will work with member systems to offer this program:

1) The school system pays NGRESA \$225.00/course/candidate for one trained instructor to travel to their location and offer the program (e.g., site based). There must be a minimum of 15-18 participants to cover the cost of instructor, including materials and supplies. The candidates must travel to NGRESA or a common site to receive instruction. The materials and supplies can be paid for by the school system or by the course participants. NGRESA monitors the instructor and collects all documentation associated with the endorsement.

2) System-wide-endorsement— The school system receives approval from NGRESA to offer the Gifted Endorsement. The system contracts with a NGRESA approved, qualified instructor to teach the endorsement for a specified fee. The system pays NGRESA \$15/course (Total of \$60 for the endorsement) to process the PLU forms and the application to the PSC for the endorsement. NGRESA monitors the instructor and collects all documentation associated with the endorsement.

If instructors are contracted by NGRESA to teach endorsement courses, the resources are budgeted as follows:

50 hour courses – @ 15 minimum students

Instructor Salary	\$3000	\$3000
Books and Materials for the Instructor	\$200	\$200
Net to NGRESA		\$175/course

**6d. Professional Education Unit Facilities**

The Gifted Endorsement will be offered primarily on-site in school systems requesting the endorsement. The professional learning or curriculum director in each system will obtain approval from the school principal to conduct the endorsement in his/her school. The NGRESA Professional Learning Director will approve the site of each endorsement. Selected sites are expected to have appropriate work and meeting space for the candidates, as well as access to the Internet and computer technology for the instructor to use in delivery of instruction and for candidate use on-site. Since the endorsement is offered at school sites, there should be sufficient lighted parking for all candidates.

**6e Professional Education Unit Resources including Technology**

All NGRESA instructors are equipped with the technology needed to deliver and provide oversight to endorsement programs. A web-page is developed for the endorsement for ease of communication among NGRESA instructors and candidates. The websites post syllabi, evaluations, articles, and announcements. In addition, instructors communicate via email in a timely manner to respond to questions posed by candidates regarding assignments or other issues. Dalton State University’s Educational Technology Center provides RESA team members with technology support for improving implementation and extension of NGRESA programs to a wider audience of educators. Further, all NGRESA training rooms are equipped with computers,

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**6 e.: Professional education unit resources including technology**