

**Recommendation 3A is not the solution to close the achievement gap.** It will cause short- and long-term damage to the GT and Magnet programs, as well as our kids.

**In the short term, instead of raising the floor, it lowers the ceiling, the standards.** The GT and Magnet programs admittance should be based on performance and achievement, not race; if the students who are not qualified get into the programs, how long will these kids be able to stay in these programs? 3A is unfair to these students who are not ready to be in the program with academically very competitive peers. It can be discouraging and hurt their self-esteem. Recommendation 3A is unfair to the students who are highly capable but could not get into the program due to their race. They're not being pushed to their full potentials. We shouldn't take this chance away from the high achievers. Instead of providing these students with support and rewarding them for their high achievements and hard work, 3A is disappointing, discouraging, and discriminating.

**In the long term, what are we teaching our kids?** Should we tell some of them, "You don't have to be smarter and work harder, you can still get these opportunities," and to others, "You can work as hard as you can but you are not going anywhere since you are Asian"? Is this what we want to tell our kids? How can these kids from the different groups face to each other? How can they love each other? How can they work together as a team and community when they grow up? And as we all know, they are the future.

**To close the achievement gap, we should provide a good quality education from an early stage across the board.** All public schools should have well-trained teachers with the same level of qualifications, continuous parenting classes for the parents, and different levels of online or in-class programs for students to choose from based on their levels and needs. We can close the achievement gap with positive actions for *all* of our kids instead of damaging the system as a whole. MCPS needs to build up the pipeline to support the highly gifted centers and magnet programs, not artificially change the standards for the different groups.

**3A is a quick fix that will cause more damage.** It compromises the quality and core values of our GT and Magnet programs, and it also compromises the values of education, fairness, and excellence. Therefore, 3A will fail the programs, our communities, and our kids.