The goal of Denver East High School’s Diverse Advanced Learners program is to bridge the gap between best practices for gifted and talented (GT) learners, English Language Learners (ELL), and culturally responsive and diverse education. Diverse Advanced Learners began in 2016 with the purchase of the Depth and Complexity Curricular Framework. The purchase of this curriculum is beneficial to students identified as gifted and talented, but it also benefits students outside of gifted and talented classrooms via the “spill over effect.”

Simultaneous year-long evening parent workshops and accountable teacher learning classes supported the school’s decision to diversify its curricula. Additionally, a family liaison worked to assemble a Student Focus Group centered around the needs of gifted and talented, advanced, and diverse student needs.

Denver East High School’s work to support Diverse Advanced Learners impacts student outcomes in a variety of ways. Predominantly, Diverse Advanced Learners programming provides support and resources in an intentional and focused way for gifted and talented students, their families, and the school community as a whole. Advanced Learning Plans (ALP), which outline the specific educational needs of gifted and talented learners, were carefully aligned to the unique needs of each student at Denver East High School.

A series of information and support sessions were provided for families throughout the 2016-2017 academic year. These sessions focused on a variety of gifted and talented topics. A professional development brown-bag lunch series, “Diverse Advanced Learners,” was provided for the school community to communicate the specific needs of gifted and talented high school students.

Diverse Advanced Learners works to support the whole student to ensure that each individual learner, family, and teacher understand gifted and talented learning and are empowered with the tools, strategies, and resources to support the highest level of course enrollment (e.g., Advanced Placement).

Denver East High School hopes to diversity enrollment in their gifted and talented and highly gifted and talented (GT/HGT) population through their work with the Diverse Advanced Learners programming.

Standard 4—Speaking Up for Every Child