

Mission

The mission of gifted education is to maximize the potential of gifted and talented students by providing programs and services that match the unique characteristics and needs of these students.

Rationale:

Gifted and talented students are those who are identified as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas and therefore require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential. (*Regulation 43-220, Gifted and Talented*)

Who are the gifted/talented students?

The following description of the identification process reflects the South Carolina definition of gifted and talented and is in keeping with the *National Excellent Report* (1995) which states:

Children and youth with outstanding talent perform or show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment.

These children and youth exhibit high performance capability in intellectual, creative, and/or artistic areas, possess an unusual leadership capacity, or excel in specific academic fields. They require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the schools.

Outstanding talents are present in children and youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

What are the characteristics of a gifted and talented student?

- Learns easily and rapidly
- Thinks clearly, recognizes implied relationships, comprehends meanings
- Reads above grade level
- Retains what she/he has heard or read without appearing to need much rote or drill
- Possesses a large vocabulary
- Exhibits independence, individualism, self-sufficiency
- Demonstrates a curious and investigative nature
- Asks penetrating, searching questions
- Focuses intently on areas of interest
- Produces original products or ideas
- Prefers complex ideas

Why are gifted and talented students identified?

The purposes of the identification process are (1) to find students who display characteristics of the gifted and talented (i.e., ability or potential for high performances in academic areas; (2) to assess the aptitudes, attributes, and behaviors of each student; and (3) to evaluate each student for the purposes of placement.

How does a student qualify for Gifted/Talented Programs?

Gifted and talented students may be found within any racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group; within any nationality; within both genders; and within populations with disabilities. Identification is a multi-step process, which consists of referral, screening and assessment of eligibility by a district evaluation and placement team. The state of South Carolina has established three dimensions of giftedness as criteria for placement in the academically gifted program. In order to qualify for placement in gifted/talented programs, a student must meet

the eligibility criteria in two out of the following three dimensions.

Dimension A - Reasoning Abilities

Students must score 93rd National age percentile on a nationally normed aptitude test.

Students may be eligible for placement on the basis of **aptitude scores alone** if they score 96th national age percentile on the composite score of a nationally normed aptitude test.

Dimension B - Achievement

Students must score 94th National percentile on approved subtests (reading comprehension and/or mathematical concepts and problem solving) on a nationally normed achievement test, or advanced status score on Reading and/or Math on the South Carolina statewide assessment instrument (SCREADY).

Dimension C: Intellectual/Academic Performance

Students demonstrate a high degree of interest in and a commitment to academic and/or intellectual pursuits or demonstrate intellectual characteristics such as curiosity, inquiry, reflection, persistence, tenacity in the face of challenge and creative productive thinking. Characteristics for this dimension are demonstrated through the South Carolina Performance Task Assessment (PTA).

For placement in grades 7-12, a 3.75 grade point average in the academic disciplines is required.

*No private testing will be accepted for eligibility, but those results may be considered for referral purposes.

How do I nominate my child for gifted/talented evaluation?

Parents with students who have demonstrated ability or potential for high performance in academic areas may refer their child for screening by completing a referral form available at local schools. To obtain a form, parents should contact their building guidance counselor.

How are gifted/talented students served?

The following approved program models are used by local school districts:

- Special Class
- Multi-Age Classroom
- Honor's Courses

*Other models may be used with special waivers from State Department of Education.

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Screening for academic gifted programs begins in Fall of 2nd grade for 3rd grade placement. For specific information regarding the Gifted/ Talented program in the district, the following person in your school district should be contacted:



We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in admission to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies should be made to your district 504 coordinator.

McCormick School District

Identifying

Academically

Gifted & Talented

Students

