



McCormick County School District

821 N. MINE STREET • MCCORMICK, SOUTH CAROLINA 29835 • TEL 864-852-2435 • FAX 864-852-2883

Gifted and Talented Program Information

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.

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.

How are gifted and talented students identified?

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 a qualifying score on Reading and/or Math on the South Carolina statewide assessment instrument (PASS).

Dimension C - Academic Performance

For placement in grades 3-6, a student must achieve a certain standard on verbal or non-verbal performance tasks. The standard varies by grade. 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.

For additional information, contact your child's guidance counselor.