

**Instruction**

**Program for the Gifted**

To the extent possible within the resources available, all gifted and talented students shall have an opportunity to participate in appropriate educational programs.

The term "gifted and talented students" means students whose mental development is accelerated beyond the average or who have demonstrated a specific aptitude or talent to the extent they need and can benefit from specially planned educational services. "Gifted and talented students" include students with exceptional ability in academic subjects, high-level thought processes, divergent thinking, creativity, and the arts.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide a gifted program which includes:

1. A system for the early identification of gifted and talented students;
2. An identification system based upon multiple techniques which ensures all students equal access to gifted and talented programs, regardless of social, economic, linguistic and ethnic background;
3. Educational programs which include access at all grade levels and which encompass all of the fundamental areas of learning;
4. Educational programs which provide for continuity among grade levels with programs consistent with the District's long-range goals;
5. Qualified instructional and administrative personnel with appropriate knowledge, training and experience to implement the program;
6. Staff development programs addressing the need for all teachers to be knowledgeable about the characteristics and learning needs of gifted and talented students;
7. Procedures to foster cooperative relationships among classroom teachers, parents, and the teachers assigned to the gifted program;
8. Procedures to foster parental involvement in all aspects of the program;
9. Procedures to continually evaluate the placement and progress of students in the gifted program with periodic progress reports issued to parents.

An annual report on the status of the District's gifted program shall be submitted to the School Board by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Eligibility to participate in the gifted program shall not be conditioned upon race, religion, sex, disability, or any factor other than the student's identification as gifted or talented.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.61, 5/2-3.62, and 5/14A-1 et seq.

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