

GIFTED EDUCATION IN THE GREENVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

The mission of the Greenville Public School District Gifted Program is to provide a challenging, qualitatively different educational experience directed to the unique needs of gifted students.

The Mississippi Gifted Education Act of 1989, amended 1993, mandates that each public school district within the state provide gifted education programs for intellectually gifted students in grades two through six. Services are provided by a properly endorsed teacher for a minimum of five hours per week.

Intellectually gifted children are those who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process.

REFERRAL CRITERIA FOR THE GIFTED PROGRAM

Referrals to the Gifted Program may be made by a parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, peer, self, or anyone else having reason to believe that the student might be intellectually gifted. Neither grades nor achievement test scores shall eliminate a student from the identification process for the Intellectually Gifted Program. All measures collected throughout the identification process shall be selected based upon the strengths of the individual student being considered.

A student must satisfy two of the following criteria at the referral level before moving forward in the identification process. Listed below are the Greenville Public School District minimal acceptable criteria on each measure used at this stage, which has been approved by the Mississippi Department of Education:

- 90th percentile on the verbal, quantitative, or non-verbal portion of a group intelligence test
- 90th percentile in one area and 95th percentile in one area on an achievement test, or

- 90th percentile on an existing measure of individual intelligence that has been administered within the past 12 months (for students transferring from another state)
- A score in the superior range on a published measure characteristic of gifted
- A score in the superior range on a published measure characteristic of creativity
- A score in the superior range on a published measure characteristic of leadership

Once the referral data has been collected, the Gifted Education Committee shall review all data and determine if the student has satisfied minimal criteria on at least two measures and should move forward to the assessment stage.

ASSESSMENT

PHASE I

After parent permission is obtained, district personnel shall collect measures from at least three categories of assessment measures. A student must satisfy three of the following criteria to proceed to Phase II:

- A full scale score at or above the 90th percentile on a normed group measure of intelligence
- A score at or above the 90th percentile on a normed measure of cognitive abilities
- A score at or above the 90th percentile in one area and 95th percentile in one area on total language, total math, total reading, or the composite on a normed achievement test
- A score at or above the superior range on a normed characteristics of gifted checklist
- A score at or above the superior range on a normed measure of creativity
- A score at or above the superior range on a normed measure of leadership

PHASE II

If a student meets three of the above criteria, the student will be administered an individual intelligence test by a district employed examiner. Results from other examiners will not be accepted. A student must score at or above the 90th percentile to satisfy eligibility criteria. An assessment report is written by the examiner and forwarded to the Local

Survey Committee for review and determination of eligibility. Parents are notified of assessment results and eligibility determination in writing.

APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals must be presented in writing to the Director of Special Services. The Local Survey Committee will review appeals, conduct hearings, and notify parents of the decision of the committee.

RE-TESTING

Students who do not satisfy the criteria may not be retested until the completion of one full school year. In order to be re-tested, the student must have scored above the 75th percentile on the intelligence test. Parents must submit a written request indicating rationale for re-testing. The Gifted Education Committee will review the request and make a final determination on re-testing eligibility. All testing must be completed by a district employed examiner.

ANNUAL RE-ASSESSMENT

A committee meets annually to re-assess each gifted student's continuation in the Gifted Program. Should the committee determine that the student should exit the program due to lack of progress or unsatisfactory participation, the student's parents will be notified and given opportunity to discuss the decision with the committee before the student is removed. If removed, the student may not re-enter for one entire school year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Gifted regulations are located at www.mde.k12.ms.us Questions may be directed to the Director of Special Services at (662) 334-2862.

GOALS

Students will discover new ideas or solutions to situations by using their own thinking processes along with cognitive and affective learning experiences.

Students will discover the joy of exploration and discovery and a love of learning that will make them life-long learners.

OBJECTIVES

Students will utilize thinking skills to discover, analyze, and evaluate information to solve problems.

Students will demonstrate the ability to use creative problem solving skills.

Students will work effectively in group situations, both as a leader and as a member of the group.

Students will acquire the skills to retrieve and disseminate information using a variety of media.

Students will design and conduct meaningful research.

Students will demonstrate the ability to pursue areas of interest through in-depth investigation.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED STUDENTS

- **Creates new designs**
- **Constructs abstractions**
- **Discusses and elaborates on questions**
- **Draws inferences**
- **Highly curious**
- **Highly self-critical**
- **Initiates projects**
- **Inventive**
- **Keenly observant**
- **Manipulates information**
- **Masters skills quickly or already knows the skill**
- **Thrives on complexity**

