

Talented and Gifted Program

The district is committed to an educational program that recognizes and strives to serve the unique needs of all children in the school district and to identify the “academically talented” and the “intellectually gifted” student. It is our responsibility to provide a differentiated curriculum and level of instruction that will meet the complexity of each individual student and their level of learning.

A student is defined as “academically talented” if he or she scores at or above the 97th percentile on a test of total reading or a test of total mathematics from a nationally standardized test battery or a nationally standardized test of reading or mathematics. This requirement may also be met by RIT-Score cut points on the Oregon Statewide Assessment, Oregon +, or achievement level tests as approved by the Oregon Department of Education. An “intellectually gifted” student must score at or above the 97th percentile on a nationally standardized test of mental ability.

Talented and gifted children are those children who require special educational programs or services, or both, beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to realize their full potential and who demonstrate outstanding ability or potential in one or more of the following areas:

1. General intellectual ability as commonly measured by measures of intelligence and aptitude;
2. Unusual academic ability in one or more academic areas;
3. Creative ability in using original or nontraditional methods in thinking and producing;
4. Leadership ability in motivating the performance of others either in educational or non-educational settings;
5. Ability in the visual or performing arts, such as dance, music or art.

TAG Identification Process

The process of becoming identified as TAG consists of referral/screening, evaluation, and identification. Within 30 working days of a referral, a decision regarding identification will be made.

1. Referral/Screening

Each individual school building will do the following:

- a. Review the entire population of students enrolled in the school, to include kindergarten through 2nd graders;
- b. Receive parent permission for individual student testing;

- c. Students scoring at or above the 97th percentile on district administered tests should immediately be referred, no single test measure or score will be used as the sole criteria for identification;
- d. If testing is not available, or if students show a “potential” to perform, assess academic achievement on a case-by-case basis with information from parents, teachers, other students, student and others familiar with the student;
- e. Watch for students who show exemplary work in the classroom, collect samples of their work;
- f. Pay special attention to students from ethnic minorities, students with disabilities and students who are culturally different or economically disadvantaged; and
- g. Nominate student for TAG evaluation.

When all evidence has been collected, the principal will convene an academic team to evaluate the nomination.

2. Evaluation

- a. Evaluation team is formed by the building principal.
- b. Members of the team may include, but not limited to, building principal, classroom teacher of the nominated student, special education teacher, previous year’s classroom teacher, the building counselor, and other building specialists.
- c. The parents are not to be included in the team’s determination.
- d. Include behavioral, learning and other performance criteria, as well as test scores.
- e. The process of evaluation will differ by grade level.

3. Identification

- a. Final identification of a talented or gifted child will be based upon combined evidence along with standardized norm-referenced assessment tests.
- b. All decisions are made by a school-based team with notification to the parents.
- c. A record of the team’s decision, with the information used to make the decision, will become part of the educational record of the student.
- d. An annual review of the behavioral, learning, and performance information will be used for identification.
- e. When a child is identified TAG, the parents will be given an opportunity to review the documents used to determine identification. The parents will be involved in the development of programs and service for their child.
- f. Identification in the categories of leadership, creativity, visual or performing arts, or other non-mandated areas, shall be based upon practices that are pertinent to those areas. The district will be consistent in their application of these practices and will treat all students equally.

4. Programs and Services

After a student has been identified as either “academically talented” or “intellectually gifted” a plan of services is developed for that student, known as the student’s TAG plan. The plan is based on the individual student’s rate and level of learning and will be reviewed annually by the building TAG team. The building TAG team will be identified by the building principal.

Level of learning is the student’s instructional level in the curriculum, where the student will be successful but will encounter knowledge and skills that have not yet been mastered. Rate of learning is the pace at which a student successfully progresses through the curriculum after being placed at the appropriate level.

The principal will provide access to appropriate services and programs that will challenge individual TAG students. Those programs or services may include, but are not limited to, early entrance, grade skipping/ungraded/multi-age classes, cluster grouping in regular classes, ability grouping, continuous progress, cross-grade grouping, compacted/fast-paced curriculum, special full or part-time classes, advanced placement classes, honors classes, independent study, credit by examination, on-line coursework, distance learning classes, interdisciplinary projects, and other programs as appropriate. Parents will be invited to provide input to the student’s TAG plan.

5. Program Exit

Students who once qualified, but subsequently fail to meet the criteria for TAG identification (scores below the 97th percentile, or the inability to continue to demonstrate the potential to perform at that level) may be exited from the program.

6. Rights of Parents

7. The individual school building will notify parents of the following:

- a. Programs of service available to their identified TAG child;
- b. An opportunity for the parent to provide input to, and discuss with the school, the programs or services to be received by their child;
- c. Their parental right to request withdrawal of their child from the TAG program;
- d. Right of parents to file a complaint under OAR 581-022-1940.

8. Complaint/Appeal Process

Differences of opinion may arise regarding the identification and the appropriateness of programs and services provided for identified talented and gifted students. It is the district’s desire and intent that satisfactory solutions can often be reached through an informal process at the school level.

9. Process

- a. The parent/guardian will contact the building principal to request reconsideration of the pertinent issue.

- b. The principal will confer with the teacher, the selection team, and any other additional appropriate persons. At this time, information pertinent to the selection, placement, and services being provided will be shared.
- c. If an agreement cannot be reached at the building level, the parent/guardian may initiate conversation with the superintendent, who in turn may review the findings.
- d. At any time, additional data may be gathered to support or change the earlier decision.
- e. Parent/Guardian may be provided an opportunity to present additional evidence through this information procedure.
- f. At any time before, during, or after this informal process, the parent/guardian will have access of appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, following the procedures outlined in OAR 581-022-1940. The district shall provide a copy of the OAR upon request.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 343.391](#)
[ORS 343.395](#)
[ORS 343.396](#)
[ORS 343.397](#)
[ORS 343.401](#)
[ORS 343.407](#)
[ORS 343.409](#)
[ORS 343.413](#)

[OAR 581-022-1310](#) to -1330