

Identification of Talented and Gifted Students

I. Referral (Grades K-2)

In order to ensure that every student has equal access to the identification process:

1. Annually, the TAG staff will solicit teacher, parent and self referrals using district developed forms. Teachers will be expected to deliberately consider students in non-typical populations - cultural and ethnic minorities, disadvantaged, underachieving gifted and disabled students.

The names generated will constitute the "referral pool" to be submitted to the district screening committee.

II. Referral (Grades 3-8)

In order to ensure that every student has equal access to the identification process:

1. Each building using data from the previous spring, will submit to the TAG staff by the third week of school each year, a list of students who on the California Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) in the areas of total reading or total math:
 - a. Scored at or above the 95th percentile in grades 2, 4, 6 and 7; or
 - b. Have demonstrated a record of high scores over time in any grade.
2. Each building, using data from the previous spring, will submit to the TAG staff by the third week of school each year, a list of students who on the Test of Cognitive Skills (TCS) scored at the 95th percentile and above in grades 2, 4, 6 and 7.
3. Annually, the TAG teacher will solicit teacher, parent and self referrals using district developed forms. Teachers will be expected to deliberately consider students in non-typical populations - cultural and ethnic minorities, disadvantaged, underachieving gifted and disabled students.

The names generated by steps 1-3 above will constitute the "referral pool" of names to be submitted to the district screening committee.

III. Screening

In order to select students who will receive further evaluation, a district screening team consisting of the TAG teacher, one representative from each building and one administrator will review all students in the referral pool.

1. The TAG staff will compile a portfolio on each student in the pool. The file will include standardized test scores including Total Reading and Total Math, examples of student work and behavior, anecdotal remarks from parents and staff regarding the student's abilities and performance, teacher recommendation and any other pertinent information available. Individual tests will be administered as needed.
2. The team will examine each portfolio and will divide the names into three groups:
 - a. Students definitely meeting identification criteria qualify by their standardized test scores, teacher nominations, student products and other indicators. These students should be considered eligible for academically or mentally gifted programs or services without further testing in that category;
 - b. Students who may meet the identification criteria include students whose test scores are much higher than their performance, those with low self-esteem and those from non-typical backgrounds. These students should be tested further or attempts made to identify their talents and abilities through other means;
 - c. Students who do not meet the identification criteria include students where the preponderance of the information indicates that the student does not meet eligibility requirements and does not show the potential to do so.

IV. Assessment

In order to make a determination on those students in group III.2.b. above (students who may meet identification criteria) additional assessment will be conducted. Parent permission will be obtained as necessary.

1. Academically Talented - Criterion-reference test scores, information regarding specific interest or aptitude in one or more given academic areas and standardized achievement test scores other than the CTBS, will be gathered and considered.
2. Intellectually Gifted - Results of group tests of academic aptitude, individual tests of intelligence or specific information relative to a student's intellectual ability will be gathered and considered.
3. Each classroom teacher, grades K-6, will provide students the opportunity to demonstrate creativity and higher level/abstract thinking using district provided activities in the classroom. Student performance will be evaluated by a committee of trained staff and volunteers.

4. In both areas, appropriate individual standardized tests will be administered to those students for whom this information is not available.

V. Final Selection

Based on information contained in student portfolios, including any additional assessment information gathered, the team will select those students who exhibit evidence as academically talented and/or intellectually gifted. In most cases, students who are selected will score at or above the 97th percentile on a nationally standardized mental abilities test or test of achievement in the areas of total reading or total math. The decision will be based on the best judgment of a knowledgeable team, not on an automatic review of test scores or any other single criteria.

VI. Parent Notification/Involvement

Parents of students who are selected are informed of the services offered by the district and of the opportunities they will have to participate in the selection of programs and services for their child. Notification procedures and forms will follow established special education procedures.

VII. Re-evaluation

Any data on a student (behavioral, anecdotal, performance or standardized testing) represents the current situation and may or may not be representative of the student in the future. The district team will re-evaluate a student's eligibility at least at the end of the 3rd and 6th grades, using the referral, screening and assessment procedures as needed. In addition, all students in III.2.b. (above) who were not identified will be placed in the referral pool for the following year.

VIII. Records

Copies of all appropriate student information including tests and parent notification/permission will be maintained in the student's education records as set forth in procedure JO-AR.

NOTE:

At the district's option, a broader base of students may be served by the TAG program. The parent notification/involvement procedure will be followed in these cases.