

What Does "Gifted" Mean?

The Great Valley School District encourages all children to continually acquire and apply new skills and knowledge as they pursue personal and challenging goals; demonstrate an understanding of, and actively participate in the local and global community; and achieve the academic standards of the personally challenging program in which he/she is enrolled. The district recognizes that students identified as gifted exhibit special strengths in problem solving, and/or critical thinking skills that require specialized instruction.

In Pennsylvania, being mentally gifted is defined as having an "outstanding intellectual and creative ability, the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, not ordinarily provided in the regular education program."

The term mentally gifted includes a person who has an IQ of 130 or higher or when multiple criteria indicate gifted ability. Determination of gifted ability is not based on IQ score alone. A student with an IQ score lower than 130 may be eligible for gifted services when other educational criteria strongly indicate gifted ability. Multiple criteria indicating gifted ability may include:

- observed or measured acquisition/retention rates that reflect gifted ability (how quickly a child learns new concepts or information, and how long he/she remembers it);
- achievement, performance or expertise in one or more academic areas that demonstrates a high level of accomplishment that exceeds differentiated instruction/ability to meet in general education curriculum;
- higher level thinking skills;
- documented evidence that intervening factors are masking gifted ability.

How Does the District Identify Gifted Students?

Referral for gifted multidisciplinary evaluation is made when the student is suspected by teachers or parents of being gifted and not receiving an appropriate education under Chapter 4.



Screening for the Gifted Program

The district has a system to locate and identify students within the district who are thought to be gifted and in need of specially designed instruction. For all grades, school staff are an integral component to identifying students in need of a gifted evaluation by reviewing relevant achievement data and classroom performance. In addition, the district conducts screening for all students in first grade. The results from the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark reading assessment are reviewed. First grade students are also administered the Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students (SAGES-2) Reasoning subtest in the spring. These measures are used as a component for consideration of a gifted evaluation.

Based on screening, the school team may, with your informed consent, conduct a gifted multidisciplinary evaluation. The team, which includes parents and school personnel, prepares a written report that brings together the information and findings from the evaluation concerning the student's educational strengths and needs. A certified school psychologist will assess the student and issue the Gifted Written Report (GWR).

What If My Child Is "Gifted"?

An eligible student is provided with a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP). The GIEP describes the education to be provided to a gifted student and includes:

- a statement of the student's present levels of educational performance;
- a statement of annual goals and short-term learning outcomes which is responsive to the learning needs identified in the evaluation report;
- a statement of the specially designed instruction and support services to be provided to the student;
- projected dates for initiation, anticipated frequency, location, and anticipated duration of gifted education;
- appropriate objective criteria, assessment procedures and timelines for determining, on at least an annual basis, whether the goals and learning outcomes are being achieved;
- the names and positions of GIEP team participants and the date of the meeting.

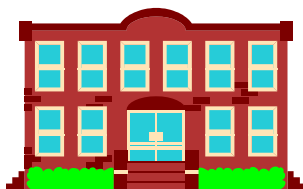
Services and Programs in Great Valley

Among the options for mentally gifted students are enrichment (example: gifted students coming together for challenging projects and discussion requiring higher order thinking skills), acceleration (example: math or reading beyond grade level), and opportunities for special studies which are frequently supported by technology (example: distance learning course). Specialized teachers support the teaching staff in providing these challenges and extensions.



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GVSD Mission Statement

The Mission of the Great Valley School District is to ensure that every student is inspired and prepared to be a passionate lifelong learner and a productive invested participant in the local and global community.

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GREAT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Guide to

GIFTED EDUCATION



PDE: Chapter 16
Regulations Regarding
Gifted Students