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GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS (M)

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M

A. Identification and Selection

1. Classroom teachers will be familiar with the criteria for identifying gifted and talented students and will be alert to students who exhibit those criteria. The identification methodology will be developmentally appropriate, non-discriminatory, and related to the programs and services offered by the district.
2. The gifted and talented specialist and central office will review the cumulative files of all Kindergarten through grade twelve students against the criteria for identifying gifted and talented students. The review will include consideration of intelligence ratings, classroom achievements, the results of standardized testing, and teaching staff member observation reports.
3. The gifted and talented specialist will confer with past and present teachers of any student identified in the review of files and of any student recommended for screening by a teacher.
4. A committee comprised of the the building principal, the classroom teacher, and central office staff will receive the recommendations of the gifted and talented specialist.

B. Selection Criteria

Students will be considered for participation in the gifted and talented program when compared to their peers within the district using a multiple-measure identification matrix. This matrix includes both a cognitive and academic achievement component.

C. Program

1. When a student has been identified as gifted or talented, the gifted and talented specialist will:



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- a. Confer with the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) on the goals of the student's program and secure the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) cooperation and permission for the student's participation in the program,
 - b. Interview each selected student for additional information about the student and for guidance in establishing an enriched educational program for the student,
 - c. Confer with the student's teacher about a proposed educational program for the student, and
 - d. Prepare and present to the building principal for approval a written educational plan for the student.
2. The enrichment needs of gifted and talented students can be met through a wide variety of activities and teaching strategies. Appropriate curricular and instructional modifications will be developed for gifted students and the program will address appropriate content, process, products and learning environment.
 3. Each student's program will seek to involve the student in all subject areas that can provide growth and stimulation in higher cognitive processes such as interpretation, extrapolation, translation, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
 4. No enrichment program will replace the basic instructional program appropriate to the student's grade level.
 5. The enriched educational program for a gifted and talented student may consist of:
 - a. Additional classroom studies and assignments,
 - b. Special classes in appropriate studies,
 - c. Out-of-class sessions with the gifted and talented specialist,
 - d. Independent projects in after-school sessions supervised by the gifted and talented specialist, and/or



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- e. General information, as well as content-specific information, as provided for in the curriculum frameworks developed by the New Jersey Department of Education.
6. A classroom teacher may provide for the needs of gifted and talented students by:
- a. Presenting content material that is related to broad-based issues, themes, or problems,
 - b. Integrating multiple disciplines into the study area,
 - c. Allowing for in-depth learning of a topic selected by the student within the study area,
 - d. Developing the student's independent and self-directed study skills,
 - e. Developing research skills and methods,
 - f. Integrating higher level thinking skills into the curriculum,
 - g. Focusing on open-ended tasks,
 - h. Using new techniques, materials, and forms,
 - i. Encouraging the development of self-understanding, and
 - j. Encouraging self-appraisal and evaluation.
- D. Annual Review
- 1. Each student identified as gifted and talented will be assessed annually for the continuing appropriateness of his/her enriched program. Assessment will include:
 - a. Review of the student's file, including relevant test results, and
 - b. Review of the student's work in the preceding school year.



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2. The program will be revised as required to meet the student's needs and interests.
3. The student may be withdrawn from the gifted and talented program when:
 - a. The student no longer meets the program's identification criteria,
 - b. The student wishes to withdraw and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) consents to withdrawal, or
 - c. The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) requests withdrawal.
4. A decision to withdraw a student from the gifted and talented program will be made by the student's classroom teacher, the building teacher, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and, where appropriate, the student.

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