**Scranton Public Schools**

**Gifted and Talented Program**

**5.00 Staff Development Policy**

All personnel who are responsible for the education of GT students will participate in professional development. Needs will be assessed by the GT coordinator and individual staff members, and will be based on evidence learned through the program evaluation process. New developments in gifted education, including policies and procedures, teaching strategies, and best practices in programming will be shared through a variety of methods/media.

Formal staff development with content area teachers will be provided at the beginning of each year and subsequently as needs arise. Throughout the year, the Western Arkansas Educational Cooperative offers many GT-oriented professional development opportunities which are available to all teachers.

Informal staff development will be conducted by collecting books, journals, and handouts related to gifted education. These items will be shared through the library, the GT classroom, and individual staff mailboxes. If interest and/or needs are indicated, teaching techniques and suggestions will be shared at faculty meetings or with individual instructors.

The GT coordinator will:

* Attend GT coordinator meetings and other professional workshops/conferences.
* Share with the School Board and community an overview of the program, the characteristics/needs of gifted students, and the progress of achieving program goals.
* Maintain ongoing dialogue with parents and students to determine student needs and explore methods to meet those needs.
* Guide curriculum documentation and provide supplemental material and support as needed.
* Provide information on the nature and needs of the gifted to all district staff serving advanced students, and will provide supplemental curricular material/support as needed.
* Provide information to staff about identifying students for services.
* Guide curriculum documentation and provide feedback as needed.

Secondary content teachers serving GT students in the regular classroom will attend at least one state approved workshop on differentiating instruction for gifted students.

Pre-AP teachers will attend state-approved training at least every five years. AP teachers will attend a College Board approved training at least every five years.

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