

Program for Gifted and Talented Students

The Sanford School Committee is committed to recognizing the individuality of our students and to providing challenging and enriching educational opportunities for them. To that end, all teachers are expected to differentiate instruction to meet the individual needs of their students. We recognize as well that there are students within our schools (approximately 3-5%) who possess special gifts in a variety of academic areas. These students have special needs that shall be met within and/or outside of the regular classroom setting in lieu of the regular programming when appropriate. The requirements of the *Maine Learning Results* will help define program offerings for our students. Programming will keep in mind the psychological, emotional and social development of the identified students.

Definition of gifted children: "Gifted children" shall mean children who have potential or demonstrate exceptional achievement beyond their age peers in the regular school program. Gifted children with exceptional ability, aptitude, skill or creativity shall have the opportunity for individualized programming.

Student identification for program participation will be based on multiple indicators that establish a consistent pattern of behavioral, learning, and/or performance information. The screening process will include all students during the spring of 2005. Thereafter, student screening will take place at the end of grades 2, 5, 7, and 9. The identification process will include three steps:

1. Screening, initiated by review of standardized test scores, performance on the local assessment system assessments, or referral which may be initiated by the teacher, the student and/or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).
2. Student profile evaluation and recommendation of action by a school team.
3. Notification of appropriate services and parental rights, including the right to file an appeal if the student does not qualify for services. The decision of the Principal on the appeal will be final.

There will be an annual review of each student receiving services to ascertain appropriateness of the student's program. The program for gifted and talented education and the student identification process will be reviewed on an annual basis and revised as necessary.

Legal Reference: Title 20A MRSA Chapter 104 & 311

Adoption date: May 2, 2005

Effective date: May 2, 2005