

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Gifted and Talented	Date Approved: June 15, 1982 June 20, 2006 February 17, 2009 July 15, 2014 July 17, 2018 Date Effective: December 14, 1999 June 20, 2006 February 17, 2009 July 15, 2014 July 17, 2018

1. PURPOSE

To establish a policy and program for gifted and talented students that adheres to state and national guidelines.

2. Definition of Gifted and Talented Students

A “gifted and talented student” is a student who is identified by professionally qualified individuals as:

- Having outstanding talent and performing, or showing the potential for performing, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with other students of a similar age, experience, or environment;
- Exhibiting high performance capability in intellectual, creative, or artistic areas;
- Possessing an unusual leadership capacity; or
- Excelling in specific academic fields.

3. REQUIREMENTS

A. The Somerset County Public School System has established procedures for identifying students who are gifted and talented.

- (1) It is a process where multiple criteria are evaluated by a designated school-based team, using a variety of assessment sources as described in the Gifted and Talented Handbook of Somerset County.

- (2) A single criterion may not be used to either include or exclude a student from the program
- (3) All parents/guardians have the right to appeal a decision of the GT committee as outlined in the Gifted and Talented Handbook of Somerset County.
- (4) Identification is an ongoing process.

B. The school system will develop programs which will

- (1) Reflect modification of content (what is taught and when it is taught - sequence and pacing);
- (2) Reflect modification of instructional strategies (how it is taught); or
- (3) Reflect modification of setting (the environment in which learning occurs).

C. Each school will regularly review identification protocol and appropriate programming needs related to the Gifted and Talented students in their buildings. This review will occur as a part of current leadership meetings, be chaired by the principal or principal's designee, and function as described in the Gifted and Talented Handbook for Somerset County.

D. There will be a county level Gifted and Talented Committee chaired by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator which will function as described in the Gifted and Talented Handbook for Somerset County.

E. A County level Gifted & Talented Advisory Council will be established consisting of educators, community members, parents, students and other interested individuals.

F. Somerset County Public Schools will provide staff development which will include the following topics:

- (1) Identification of gifted and talented students.
- (2) Characteristics of gifted and talented students.
- (3) Differentiation of curriculum
- (4) Effective Techniques of Instruction
- (5) Program Development for Gifted and Talented students
- (6) Alternate and innovative ways to assist gifted and talented students.

G. Somerset County Public Schools will encourage gifted and talented instruction in a way that will benefit the larger student body recognizing that gifted and talented students are to be found in youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

H. The Somerset County Gifted and Talented Handbook shall be reviewed annually and revised as deemed necessary by the County GT Committee.