

PHASE I OF ASSESSMENT

Mass Screening Referral Process

This process requires all Mississippi districts to screen all students in at least one grade level each year. Districts should use a normed group measure of intelligence in the Mass Screening Referral Process. This process should assist in identifying students in underrepresented populations. Students who obtain a full-scale score at or above the 90th percentile on the normed group measure of intelligence shall move forward in the referral process. Students who scored at or above the 85th percentile but lower than the 90th percentile on the normed group measure of intelligence shall be subjected to an Emerging Potential for Gifted Referral Checklist. If these students meet the criteria on the checklist, they shall move forward in the referral process.

If parent permission is granted for testing, a student must meet the stated criteria for at least three of the following measures prior to the administration of an individual intelligence test:

- A full scale score at or above the 90th percentile on a normed group measure of intelligence;
- A score at or above the superior range on a normed characteristics of giftedness checklist;
- A score at or above the superior range on a normed measure of creativity;
- A score in the superior range on a normed measure of leadership;
- A score at or above the 90th percentile on a normed measure of cognitive abilities;
- A score at or above the 90th percentile on total language, total math, total reading, total science, total social studies, or the composite on a normed achievement test;
- Other measures as approved by the State Board of Education on the district's Gifted Education Program Proposal.

PHASE II OF ASSESSMENT

If the stated minimal acceptable criteria have been met on at least three of the above measures, an

individual intelligence test will be administered by a licensed examiner. In no case will the examiner be related to the student being tested.

The student must score at or above the 91st percentile composite/full scale in order to satisfy eligibility criteria. If a student meets criteria, the Gifted Local Survey Committee will grant an "Intellectually Gifted" eligibility ruling.

PLACEMENT IN THE GIFTED PROGRAM

Once a student is ruled eligible for placement in the gifted program, the parent has the right to agree to placement or withhold place of the child in the program. Written parental permission must be obtained before the child can be placed in the program.

Participation in the Gifted Education Program is NOT a reward. It is an Entitlement under State Law (Mississippi Gifted Education Act of 1989, Mississippi Code Sections 37-23-171 through 37-23-181).

Once a student is determined eligible for a gifted program in Mississippi, no reevaluation testing is required to remain in the program. Although criteria may vary from district to district, an eligible determination is accepted by all school districts within the State of Mississippi.

VISITORS

Parents and interested parties are always welcome to visit the (GALA) gifted classes. Please contact the school office or teachers of the gifted to make arrangements.

For additional information or questions about the Wilkinson County School District Gifted Education Program, please contact Mr. Lee T. Dixon, Director of Special Services or Lynncoy Thornburg, Gifted Contact Person, Gifted Teacher/Gifted Coordinator at the Department of Special Services at (601) 888-3582 or (601) 888-4331.

Wilkinson County School District Gifted Educational Program



' GALA '

**G - Gifted
A - and
L - Lifelong
A - Achievers**

Approved by 08/8/2018

The Wilkinson County School District
Board of Trustees

Policies & Procedures

Policies and procedures for referral, assessment, and eligibility for the Wilkinson County School District gifted program were compiled in accordance with Mississippi Gifted Education Standards and the 2013 Revised MDE Gifted Regulations, incorporating required process skill development and outcomes.

Mission Statement

The Wilkinson County School District strives to foster the unique Intellectual, Social and Emotional needs of the gifted student and educate them through the development of appropriate services to meet the needs of these students.

Vision

The vision for the Wilkinson County School District Gifted Program is for students who are gifted to feel valued and supported in a learning environment which both challenges and inspires them to pursue excellence and possess a passion for lifelong learning.

Philosophy

It is our belief that gifted students require specialized educational experiences that promote the development and expression of their potential. If gifted individuals are to experience fulfilling lives and if society is to derive optimal benefits from gifted individuals' uncommon potentials, an educational program must be structured to develop more fully their exceptional and varied abilities, interests, and talents.

Wilkinson County School District believes that it is our duty to address the unique learning characteristics, interests, personal needs, and capabilities of gifted children. The services provided should emphasize the gifted students' need for interaction with intellectual peers. Emphasis on the individual highlights the fact that there are differences among gifted students and a need for specialized educational experiences to meet these differences.

About the Gifted Program

The Gifted Education Program is designed to meet the individual needs of intellectually talented students by providing an interdisciplinary program that goes beyond the standard grad level of students who have exceptional creative and critical thinking abilities. The Gifted Education class is not a reward or enrichment program for honor students, nor does it replace advanced classes for students who excel academically. The Gifted Education Program is an educational intervention for those who need it.

Program Goals

- Identify and place intellectually gifted students in the Wilkinson County School District Gifted Education Program
- Provide an educational program to meet the needs of identified students and assist the students in realizing their potential
- Provide curriculum which is challenging, stimulating, and includes diversity of content and processes.
- Reduce the discrepancy between actual performance and potential performance by developing an environment which encourages higher level goals and achievement.
- Promote the development of self-esteem, self-awareness, self-direction. and self-evaluation.

Requirements and Procedures for Referral

Referral for the gifted education program is based on consideration of performance in the regular classroom, potential ability, test performance, maturity, creativity, and leadership potential. While grades and/or achievement test scores might be an indicator of giftedness, by MDE Gifted Education Program Regulations, neither classroom behavior, grades, or achievement test scores may be used to eliminate a student from the identification process.

Referral must include documentation of three or more of the following:

- A group measure of intelligence administered with the past twelve (12 months) with a minimum score at or above the 90th percentile;

- Grades from the current or past school years with at least a "B" average;
- Published characteristics of giftedness measure at the superior range;
- Published measure of creativity and/or leadership at the superior range;
- Achievement test scores at the 90th percentile;
- Existing measure of individual intelligence administered within the past twelve (12) months, and/or;
- Other measures documented in research on identification of the intellectually gifted.

A student may be referred for consideration, pending documentation of the above criteria, by a parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, peer, self, or anyone else having reason to believe that the student might be intellectually gifted.

A referral must be initiated by written request to the teacher of the gifted. Once a referral process has been initiated with a dated and signed referral form, only the Gifted Local Survey Committee or parents can stop the identification process.

OUT-OF-STATE GIFTED ELIGIBILITIES

As each state has a unique set of eligibility criteria for placement in a gifted program, a student moving to Mississippi with a gifted eligibility from another state must satisfy Mississippi eligibility criteria before being considered for placement in the gifted program. The eligibility ruling from another state may be used to initiate the referral process in Mississippi. There is no temporary placement in the gifted program while the student goes through the eligibility process within the district.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

If a student meets the criteria for referral, the Gifted Local Survey Committee will recommend individual assessment to determine eligibility for an "Intellectually Gifted" ruling. Written parental permission for testing must be obtained before any individual testing is initiated.