

Gifted and Talented Program



Trion City Schools

“The Georgia State Board of Education defines a gifted student as “...a student who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative ability(ies), exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, and/or excels in specific academic fields, and who needs special instruction and/or ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his/her abilities.”

Trion City provides services for identified gifted students at all grade levels. The gifted program is designed to meet the specific needs of these students and extend competencies in the areas of cognitive skills, collaboration, problem solving, creativity, reference skills, and communication skills beyond the experience of the regular classroom.

Trion City’s Gifted program is state funded. The procedures for identifying and placing students in the gifted program are governed by the Georgia State Department of Education.

EVALUATION FOR GIFTED ELIGIBILITY

Students in Trion City Schools are evaluated periodically for gifted eligibility.

Identification & Placement of Students in the Quest Program

Referrals

Students may be referred by teachers, parents, peers, or anyone else having knowledge of students abilities. Automatic referrals are made as a result of district wide testing. Referral windows are set at two intervals throughout the school year. Referrals are reviewed by the gifted eligibility team. This team determines which students will be formally evaluated. The team consists of a fluid committee of three gifted endorsed district faculty members

Evaluation

Following parental consent, the local school evaluates the student’s mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation through the use of a nationally normed test, instruments, performances, and standardized rating scales, as outlined by the State Department of Education guidelines.

Eligibility

The eligibility team reviews the relevant information about the referred. A decision is made by the team according to state eligibility regulations regarding eligibility or the need for further assessment.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for gifted services, a student must either

Option A: score at the 99th percentile (for grades K-2) or the 96th percentile (grades 3-12) on the composite or full scale score of a standardized test of mental ability & the 90th percentile on the total battery, total math or total reading section of a standardized achievement test

OR

Option B: qualify through the multiple-criteria assessment process by meeting the criteria in any three of the following four areas:

Mental Ability- 96th percentile on a composite or appropriate component score on a standardized test of mental ability.

Achievement-90th percentile on a Total Battery, Total Reading or Total Math section on a nationally age normed achievement test.

Motivation – Superior rating (90%) on a standardized motivation scale. In grades 6-12 a student may also qualify by obtaining a certain grade point average in courses taken in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language over the past two years. This qualifying GPA must be achieved by no more than 10% of the students in each grade level and may not be lower than 3.5, but probably will be higher.

If a rating scale is used for creativity, a rating scale shall not be used for motivation.

Creativity – 90th percentile on the total battery of a standardized test or Superior rating (90%) on a standardized creativity characteristics rating scale.

- ❖ Any data used to establish eligibility in one area cannot be used to establish eligibility in another area.
- ❖ Any test score, evaluation instrument, or product/performance used to establish eligibility must be current within two years. Students that are tested and are not determined eligible for gifted services shall not be tested the following school year.
- ❖ Students that transfer in to the district from another Georgia school district where they were identified and placed in to a gifted program are automatically eligible for gifted services. Students from gifted programs outside of the state of Georgia are not automatically placed into the gifted program unless the student is a dependent of an active military member. Testing procedures and eligibility screening must be reviewed to determine alignment with Georgia guidelines.
- ❖ Outside data / reports may be accepted and considered but cannot be substituted for school generated data to determine eligibility.

Gifted Curriculum

Gifted services must meet Common Core Georgia Performance Standards while providing differentiated curriculum based on the needs of gifted students. This gifted curriculum includes more elaborate, complex, and in-depth study of major ideas, problems, and themes than would ordinarily be available in the regular classroom. The curriculum blends instruction in math, science, social studies, language arts, reading and fine arts into units that examine central themes, issues, problems, and topics. Students may also have opportunities for independent studies on topics that interest them

Fundamental to curricula developed for gifted students are learning experiences that develop the use of higher level thinking skills and processes. This instruction enables students to apply these skills and make informed decisions, to understand and apply concepts, to make judgments, and to define, create, and implement strategies for solving problems

Delivery Models

The needs of able learners are diverse. Trion City Schools use a combination of delivery models to meet the needs of the gifted students. Student who qualify for gifted shall participate in gifted services a minimum of five segments per week. Available models include:

Direct Services

Resource Model (pull out)- Grades K-12
Advanced Content – Grades K-12
Cluster Grouping – Grades K-12

Indirect Services

Collaborative K-12
Joint Enrollment/Postsecondary 9-12
Mentorship/Internship 9-12

Mission

- ❖ To identify students for the gifted program as outlined by the Georgia Department of Education (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.38 adopted 5/30/2012).
- ❖ To provide a rigorous, challenging, and diverse curriculum for students in the gifted program.
- ❖ To provide opportunities to express their extraordinary and unique abilities through activities designed to produce advanced research skills, develop critical and creative thinking and problem solving skills, and increase communication skills.

Program Goals

Gifted students will:

- ❖ Develop advanced research skills and methods.
- ❖ Develop and practice creative thinking and creative problem-solving skills with a variety of complex topics within the area of study.
- ❖ Develop and practice critical thinking and logical problem-solving skills in the pertinent academic area.
- ❖ Develop advanced communication skills.
- ❖ Develop and understanding of self and how their unique characteristics may influence interactions with others.

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