

**Baldwyn Public School District**

**Gifted Education Program**



## **Policies and Procedures**

Policies and procedures for referral, assessment, and eligibility for Baldwin Public School District gifted program were compiled in accordance with the Mississippi Gifted Regulations, incorporating required process skill development and outcomes.

Revised October 2013

Required referral criteria was approved by the Baldwin Public School District on March 18, 2013

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Baldwin Public School District gifted program is to insure that intellectually gifted children, as defined by the Mississippi Department of Education, are offered appropriate educational experiences that are qualitatively different from those available in the general education classroom in order to provide opportunities for them to realize their abilities and full potential.

## **MDE Definition**

“Intellectually gifted children shall mean those children and youth who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process.”

## **Philosophy**

The Baldwin Public School District, in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education’s regulations and standards for gifted education programs, is committed to identifying intellectually gifted students and providing a program of enrichment that addresses their unique talents, needs, and learning styles. Recognizing the intellectual, emotional, and social needs of gifted students; as well as their potential for creativity,

higher-level thinking, independent learning, and leadership; the program addresses cognitive and affective needs with a curriculum that is qualitatively different from the general classroom.

## **Goals and Objectives**

- To provide an equitable identification process for gifted students which is inclusive and meets requirements as outlined in state regulations
- To provide a gifted learning environment that allows gifted students to interact with intellectual peers
- To provide challenging learning experiences that address the multiple talents, challenges, and cultural diversity of the district's student population
- To provide a challenging, differentiated curriculum and teaching strategies that address the intellectual, cognitive, and affective characteristics of the gifted learner
- To focus on students' interest, strengths, and learning styles in order to encourage a life-long love of learning
- To provide opportunities for students to develop skills in creative and critical thinking, communication, creative and performing arts, leadership, career awareness, life-skills, self directed learning, group dynamics, and self-evaluation
- With the assistance of school counselors, to provide differentiated guidance efforts to meet social-emotional needs of gifted students including those who are underachieving, twice exceptional, and from diverse populations

- To provide specialized training for gifted teachers and other personnel involved in working with gifted students

## **Intellectually Gifted Learning Outcomes**

These outcomes are suggested for all Intellectually Gifted Education Programs, grades 2-8, within the State of Mississippi. Because of the interrelatedness of metacognition and other critical process skills, categories were developed for communication and management purposes. No single outcome can be taught effectively as a stand-alone topic. It is clear that one cannot develop an appropriate activity for one of the outcomes without incorporating one or more of the other outcomes. Because of this, the outcomes suggested are not mutually exclusive. Thus, the categories are simply provided as a way to help organize the thoughts/ideas that are encompassed by and contribute to the development of a working understanding of the metacognitive process.

There are six major outcome categories: Thinking Skills, Creativity, Group Dynamics, Communication, Research, and Self-Directed Learning. When all major outcomes have been accomplished, the student should be able to demonstrate metacognition.

## **Requirements And Procedures For Referral**

Referral for the gifted education program is based on potential ability, maturity, creativity, leadership ability, classroom performance, and test performance. While grades and 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.

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

### **Summary of Steps in the Referral Process/Evaluation Process For The Intellectually Gifted Program**

Step 1: A referral is made to Special Services by parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, peer, or student.

Step 2: The student must score in the superior range or the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of at least 2 of the following:

- Intellectual traits checklist
- Creativity traits checklist
- Leadership traits checklist
- Achievement test scores
- Existing measure of intelligence given in the past 12 months
- Group measure of intelligence

Step 3: Parental permission is obtained to proceed with the testing process.

Step 4: The student must score in the superior range or 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on at least 3 of the following:

- Intellectual traits checklist
- Creativity traits checklist
- Leadership traits checklist
- Full scale score at or above 90% on a normed group test
- Score at or above 90% on a normed measure of cognitive ability
- Parental Checklists

Step 5: Administration of intelligence test. The student must obtain a score at or above the 91st percentile to qualify for the Intellectually Gifted Program in the state of Mississippi.

## **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.

## **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 placement of the child in the program. Written parental permission must be obtained before the child can be placed in the program.

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

## **APPEAL PROCESS FOR ENTERING & EXITING GIFTED PROGRAM**

Parents/Legal guardians may appeal a decision by submitting a written letter within 30 days of the original decision date to the gifted education director requesting a review.

Once the appeal is received, the student's file will be reviewed by the director, building principal, and district survey committee chair person. The subsequent decision will be one of the following:

- Maintain the original decision
- Collect additional information/data/documentation to aid in determination process



Following a decision, a conference will be held with parents/guardians to discuss and review recommendation. In the event of no resolution, the committee decision will be reviewed by the superintendent.

**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).**

For additional information or questions about the Baldwin Public School District Gifted Program, contact Krystjan Jackson, Director of Special Services, at 662-365-1005.