

REGULATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: IFE

Responsible Office: DIVISION OF ADVANCED STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

GIFTED AND TALENTED IDENTIFICATION

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to ensure that students identified as gifted and talented receive services to develop their maximum potential in accordance with State and federal laws and regulations.

B. BACKGROUND

State laws and regulations and the Maryland Criteria for Excellence Gifted Program Guidelines stipulate that Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) identify “gifted and talented” students and provide different services to these students beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to develop the students’ potential.

C. DEFINITIONS

Gifted and Talented: an elementary or secondary student who is identified by professionally qualified individuals as (a) 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; (b) exhibiting high performance capability in intellectual, creative, or artistic areas; (c) possessing an unusual leadership capacity; or (d) excelling in specific academic fields. These students give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services and activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities.

D. PROCEDURES

AACPS recognizes that identification of gifted and talented students and services to those students are inextricably tied.

1. Identification

- a. Each fall, the Assistant Superintendent for Advanced Studies and Programs shall issue a memo outlining the procedures to be used to screen students for gifted and talented identification, in accordance with State regulations. Gifted and talented identification shall occur in grades 2, 5, and 8. To ensure all students are considered for gifted and talented identification, the screening process shall include potential, aptitude, and achievement indicators. To assist in this process, AACPS shall use the results from a variety of assessments, including:
 - i. The Primary Talent Development Cumulative Portfolio;
 - ii. A nationally recognized ability assessment chosen by the Division of Advanced Studies and Programs;
 - iii. A locally approved achievement assessment chosen by the Division of Advanced Studies and Programs; and
 - iv. Teacher and parent rating scales.
- b. When appropriate, students shall be evaluated on an individual basis using additional data points to include classroom and district assessments, out-of-district assessments, and student work and performance artifacts. These data points shall be reviewed by a school-based committee comprised of administrators, school counselors, classroom teachers, and Advanced Learner Program designees.
- c. The process of identifying students with demonstrated or potential giftedness includes an acknowledgement that students may exhibit high potential for giftedness which is not captured by formal assessments.
- d. Measures shall be taken to encourage and facilitate the active and informed participation of parents/guardians in the educational decision-making process.
- e. Parents/guardians who disagree with identification determinations may appeal a determination through the Division of Advanced Studies and Program.

2. Programs and Services

- a. AACPS will implement the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Primary Talent Development Early Learning Program which engages primary students in learning experiences that promote the behaviors associated with potential and advanced capabilities in young learners. The program will be implemented in compliance with the MSDE Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Education Program Guidelines.

- b. Additional programs and services provided to students identified as gifted and talented reflect nationally and State recognized best practices to challenge students appropriately.
- c. Programs and services provided to students identified as gifted and talented shall be administered at the assigned school, by classroom teachers, with support and professional development from the Division of Advanced Studies and Programs.

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