

RANKIN

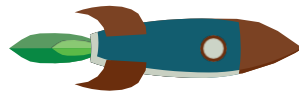
COUNTY

SCHOOL

DISTRICT

VentURE

REFERRAL TO PLACEMENT PROCEDURES



Rankin County School District Venture Program

Venture is Rankin County School District's program for intellectually gifted students. It is a state mandated program that addresses the unique needs of gifted students by providing appropriate, qualitatively different options in addition to regular classroom instruction.

Students will be identified and considered for placement in the Venture program in accordance with Rankin County School District procedures and Mississippi Department of Education regulations.

The mission of the Venture program is to provide optimal opportunities for gifted students to realize their maximum potential. Instruction is enrichment based and has an extensive instructional management plan and covers four broad instructional areas: thinking skills, creativity, personal development, and research. Students are also challenged to use technology, writing for a purpose, civic responsibility and reflection about their own actions and learning. Venture teachers use many different instructional strategies such as workshops, independent study, problem solving exercises, mentorships, small group projects, brainstorming, and using technology.

Students in the Venture Program meet goals through participation through:

- Development of leadership and decision-making skills
- Inclination to ask and answer challenging questions
- Using alternative routes to solve problems through the use of imagination
- Expansion of specific strengths and interests
- Verbal, written, and dramatic expression
- Implementation of effective study and research skills
- Appreciation of different thoughts, environments, and cultures
- Developing a sense of responsibility toward the betterment of society.

Process for Referring Students to the Venture Program

There are two types of gifted referral processes. Individual referral process addresses those students who are individually referred for gifted eligibility. Mass screening referral process addresses those students who are mass screened for gifted eligibility. RCSD mass screens all first graders each school year.

Individual Referral (Grades 3-7)

STEP 1: Referrals for students in grades 3-7 (where there is a venture program in the school) can come from a teacher, counselor, administrator, parent, peer, self, or any other person having reason to believe that the student may be intellectually gifted. Referrals should be made to the student's regular education teacher and/or the gifted teacher at the student's school building.

STEP 2: The referred student's parent/guardian will be sent the Gifted Pupil Personal Data Sheet and the Prather Humble Checklist to fill out. These forms must be completed and returned to the school before a child can proceed to the assessment phase.

STEP 3: Assessment Data will be collected by district personnel with at least three of the measures listed below included on each student.

1. Norm-referenced group intelligence test (administered within the last twelve months) Criteria: full scale/composite score at or above 90%
2. Published checklist of characteristics of gifted students. Criteria: at or above the Superior range
3. Published measure of creativity. Criteria: at or above the Superior range
4. Published measure of leadership. Criteria: at or above the Superior range
5. Achievement test scores (at or above the 90th percentile)
6. Existing measure of individual intelligence administered within the twelve months (at or

- above the 90th percentile)
7. Other measures documented in the research on identification of intellectually gifted students.

STEP 4: After a minimum of three (3) measures listed in step 3 has been collected, the data will be forwarded to the RCSD Gifted Coordinator. If criteria has been met the student will move to the next step. If criteria has not been met, parents will be informed that the student is ineligible for the program via mail.

*Students who score 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.

STEP 5: An appropriately certified or licensed psychometrist or psychologist will administer an individual norm-referenced intelligence test after reviewing all data collected to select the correct instrument. The referred student must score at the 91st percentile or above in the composite/full scale area or the 91st percentile on approved subtests (as per publisher) to be eligible for services.

*When a student does not meet the above criteria but met the criteria on the emerging potential for gifted checklist and scored at least 84th percentile on the IQ test, the RCSD matrix (MDE approved) with existing scores will be used to determine eligibility.

STEP 6: The district local survey committee will determine eligibility based on data collected. Parents will be informed of Eligibility status via mail.

STEP 7: Students with a Mississippi eligibility ruling as Intellectually Gifted shall be accepted and placed appropriately the following school year. A parental consent form must be signed before the student can receive services.

Parents do have the right to refuse gifted education services.

Mass Screening Referral Process (1st and 2nd grade)

When a complete grade is mass-screened, no parental permission needs to be obtained. Referral information will be gathered on the referral form only on students that score at or above the established cut-off score.

STEP 1: All first and second grade students will be mass screened during the school year. RCSD will use a normed group measure of intelligence in the mass screening referral process. Students who obtain a full scale score of 90th percentile or higher will move forward in the referral process.

*Students who score 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.

STEP 2: The students who have met the criteria in step one will have the Gifted Pupil Personal Data Sheet and the Prather Humble Checklist sent home to be completed by the parent/guardian. These forms must be completed and returned to the school before a child can proceed to the next step.

STEP 3: Assessment Data will be collected by district personnel with at least three of the measures listed below.

1. Norm-referenced group intelligence test (administered within the last twelve months) Criteria: full scale/composite score at or above 90% (this is what was given during the mass screening)
2. Published checklist of characteristics of gifted students. Criteria: at or above the Superior range
3. Published measure of creativity. Criteria: at or above the Superior range
4. Published measure of leadership. Criteria: at or above the

Superior range

5. Achievement test scores (at or above the 90th percentile)
6. Existing measure of individual intelligence administered within the twelve months (at or above the 90th percentile)
7. Other measures documented in the research on identification of intellectually gifted students.

STEP 4: After a minimum of three (3) measures listed in step 3 has been collected, the data will be forwarded to the RCSD Gifted Coordinator. If criteria has been met the student will move to the next step. If criteria has not been met, parents will be informed that the student is ineligible for the program via mail.

STEP 5: An appropriately certified or licensed psychometrist or psychologist will administer an individual norm-referenced intelligence test after reviewing all data collected to select the correct instrument. The referred student must score at the 91st percentile or above in the composite/full scale area or the 91st percentile on approved subtests (as per publisher) to be eligible for services.

*When a student does not meet the above criteria but met the criteria on the emerging potential for gifted checklist and scored at least 84th percentile on the IQ test, the RCSD matrix (MDE approved) with existing scores will be used to determine eligibility.

STEP 6: The district local survey committee will determine eligibility based on data collected. Parents will be informed of Eligibility status via mail.

STEP 7: Students with a Mississippi eligibility ruling as Intellectually Gifted shall be accepted and placed appropriately the following school once written parental consent is obtained. A parental consent form must be signed before the student can receive services.

Parents do have the right to refuse gifted education services.

For more information regarding the RCSD Venture program please refer to the RCSD Venture Policy and Procedure Handbook.