

ARIZONA LEGISLATION ON GIFTED EDUCATION

Arizona law (ARS § 15-770), mandates:

- School districts identify gifted students (K-12) as those scoring in the 97th percentile or above on a test of reasoning ability.
- That the test or combination of tests used for placement in gifted education programs provide separate scores for verbal, non-verbal and quantitative reasoning and show reliability, validity and ceilings appropriate for gifted (ARS § 15-203).
- A test must not discriminate against handicapping condition or language deficiency (ARS § 15-764). The variety of tests on the State Board of Education approved list allows districts to choose the test or tests most appropriate to the district, including special populations and special needs.
- Students who score at the 97th percentile or above shall receive special education commensurate with their academic abilities and potentials, but additional students may be served (ARS § 15-770.1). This allows districts to establish their own policies for testing and criteria. Multiple criteria for special populations, bilingual, disadvantaged, handicapped, etc., may be developed and used.
- School districts provide special education for gifted students commensurate with academic abilities and potentials. This means evaluating what the student is capable of achieving, designing curriculum, and providing opportunities for that student to progress and be challenged.
- Education for gifted shall show how it differs from regular education in content, process, product, and environment (ARS § 15-770.2). All curriculum has content (the math or reading material being studied), process (working with math problems or answering the questions about the reading), and product (a project, final test or paper, performance, or other end result).

Arizona law (ARS § 15-770) also states that all districts will file a K-12 Scope and Sequence (or curriculum plan) for gifted education with the Department of Education on or before July 1, 1987. The SCOPE means what is taught – curriculum content; and the SEQUENCE means when it is taught – at which grade level, and in what order 0 e.g. as when concepts are introduced, later developed, and finally mastered. A Gifted Education scope and Sequence outlines a curriculum that builds skills and concepts in a comprehensive manner K-8.

Litchfield Elementary School District informs all parents through school newsletters and district publications about the availability of gifted services. Direct service in the area of giftedness is provided to students who score at the 97th percentile or above on the Cognitive Abilities Test and consultation service is available for classroom teachers to assist with planning curriculum for students who need more challenge.