

**KENTON COUNTY SCHOOLS GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM
PRIMARY TALENT POOL
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. WHAT IS THE PRIMARY TALENT POOL (PTP)?

The Primary Talent Pool is a group of students who possess demonstrated or potential ability to perform at exceptionally high levels in the primary years (P1-P4: Kindergarten through Third Grade). These students are referred to as high potential learners. The purpose of selecting a Primary Talent Pool is to provide early enrichment for those students whose talents must be nurtured in order for those talents to fully develop.

2. WHAT IS A HIGH POTENTIAL LEARNER?

Students who learn and comprehend at a faster pace and more complex level than their age peers are considered high potential learners. They acquire skills earlier and progress at an accelerated rate.

3. ARE STUDENTS IN THE PRIMARY TALENT POOL IDENTIFIED GIFTED AND TALENTED?

Students who are in the PTP are not identified gifted and talented but have potential to perform at high levels. According to 704 KAR 3:285, 25% of students could be identified in the primary talent pool demonstrating high potential in any one or more of the following areas; general intellectual ability, specific academic areas of language arts, math, science and social studies, visual and performing arts categories of dance, drama, music and visual arts, creativity or leadership. Formal identification for the gifted and talented program begins in grade 4 and continues until the student graduates from high school. Formal identification requires 3 measures including 9th stanine or 96% or higher on at least one formal testing measure in general intellectual ability and specific academics. Other identification guidelines are in place for all gifted and talented identified areas. The range of students for formal identification is typically 5% or less in each individual category.

4. HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE PRIMARY TALENT POOL?

A minimum of three informal assessment measures are used to provide evidence that students should participate in the Primary Talent Pool. Evidence is gathered from a developmental measure given to all students in kindergarten and new to the school system, observations and written documentation of student behavior and work samples, teacher checklist and recommendation form. Other measures could include primary portfolios, anecdotal records, interviews and questionnaires. A school committee reviews the evidence to determine if a primary student is a high potential learner and should be included in the Primary Talent Pool. The committee should consider environmental, cultural, and disabling conditions.

5. WHAT IS MEANT BY INFORMAL ASSESSMENT MEASURES?

Informal assessment measures rely on observation and professional judgment rather than being standardized or norm referenced with numbers and scores.

6. CAN ANY FORMAL TESTING BE DONE WITH PTP STUDENTS?

Formal, normed measures may be used for diagnosing the level of instructional service needed by a student and for evaluation of student progress. Data from formal, normed measures shall not be used for the purpose of eliminating eligibility for services to a child in the primary program, but may be used to discover and include eligible students overlooked by informal assessments.

7. DESCRIBE THE MEMBERSHIP OF A SCHOOL COMMITTEE THAT WOULD MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THE PRIMARY TALENT POOL SERVICES?

Membership of the school committee could consist of an administrator, gifted education personnel, primary teachers, guidance counselor, special area teachers (art, music, dance, and drama). Input from parents and community members regarding school services are suggested.

8. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN PRIMARY SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PRIMARY TALENT POOL?

According to 704 KAR 3:285, "high potential learners" are students who typically represent the top quartile (25%) of the entire student population in terms of the degree of demonstrated gifted characteristics and behaviors.

9. WHY SHOULD 25% OF PRIMARY STUDENTS BE INVOLVED IN THE PTP?

It is important to cast a wide net to find high potential learners. The PTP should include the top students in each of five areas (general intellectual ability, specific academic aptitude, leadership, creativity, and the visual and performing arts) for a total of 25% of the entire primary school population.

10. HOW ARE STUDENTS SERVED IN THE PTP?

Students in the PTP should receive differentiated services that are matched to their needs, interests, and abilities. Some PTP students may need to be cluster grouped for reading and/or math and served by a regular classroom teacher who varies their curriculum. Enrichment opportunities can be planned for individual students within the regular classroom. Acceleration by subject or grade is appropriate for some advanced PTP students. PTP students selected in the area of general intellectual ability might be in cluster groups for math and/or reading. Other PTP students requiring services in leadership development may meet with the guidance counselor and be mentored by an older student identified in leadership. A student placed in the PTP for visual art may be served by an art teacher who would cluster group the visual art students and serve them in a pull-out program which meets one hour each month. These are just a few examples of appropriate multiple service delivery options. It is important for students in the PTP to spend time in whole group instruction to master the curriculum and to interact with their peers.

11. DO PRIMARY TALENT POOL STUDENTS AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFY AS GIFTED STUDENTS ONCE THEY EXIT THE PRIMARY GRADES AND MOVE INTO THE FOURTH GRADE?

No, PTP students must be formally identified in one or more areas of giftedness. Students can be identified at any grade level in any gifted and talented area beginning in fourth grade. The Kenton County School System has a screening and identification process which will include formal standardized testing in the areas of general intellectual ability, specific academic aptitude, and creativity. Portfolios, performances and other approved measures are utilized in the areas of leadership and the visual and performing arts.

12. DO PRIMARY TALENT POOL STUDENTS HAVE A GIFTED STUDENT SERVICE PLAN (GSSP)?

Gifted Student Service Plans are not required for PTP students, but the teacher(s) providing services should have a record of differentiated and enrichment services provided for each student on a PTP Data Form.

13. IS IT NECESSARY TO NOMINATE STUDENTS FOR THE PRIMARY TALENT POOL IN THE FIVE AREAS, OR IS BEING IN THE PTP ALL INCLUSIVE OF THE AREAS?

Although the law does not require identification in each area, PTP students should be recognized in the specific areas where they show strengths. Once a student is selected for the PTP, he/she will be served in their area(s) of strength.