

MOON AREA SD

8353 University Boulevard

Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16) | 2021 - 2024

CHAPTER 16

Chapter 16 of the PA Code specifies how Pennsylvania will meet its obligations to suspected and identified gifted students who require gifted education to reach their potential. Gifted students are to be provided with quality gifted education services and programs. Requirements for Gifted Education Plans can be found in the Pennsylvania Code (22 Pa Code §16.32).

In accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 4.13(e) (relating to strategic plans) and 22 Pa. Code § 16.4, each school district shall develop and implement a gifted education plan every 6 years.

- a. The plan shall include the process for identifying children who are gifted and in need of specially designed instruction, as well as the gifted special education programs offered.
- b. The school districts shall make its gifted education plan available for public inspection and comment for a minimum of 28 days prior to approval of the plan by the school district's board of directors.
- c. Each school district shall provide, as the Department may require, reports of students, personnel and program elements, including the costs of the elements, which are relevant to the delivery of gifted education. (22 Pa. Code § 16.4)

1. Describe your district's public notice procedures conducted annually to inform the public of the gifted education services AND programs offered (newspaper, student handbooks, school website, etc.).

The Moon Area School District sends the Public and Parental Notice Information Notice for Child Find to every residential structure/mailbox in Moon and Crescent Townships. The Notice can also be found on the Moon Area School District Website and is available for parental review at all buildings within the District.

2. Describe your district's process for locating students who are thought to be gifted and may need specially designed instruction. Initial screening for possible gifted assessment may be requested by a teacher or parent/guardian at the building level. The screening process involves a review of records and completion of district established surveys to assess a student's strengths and performance with existing curriculum expectations. Screening forms are available for teachers and parents to initiate this process. Information is previewed through a MATRIX to generate candidates for individualized assessments to include cognitive/IQ, academic and 'gifted' performance. Once a student is recommended to advance to the next level of review and a Chapter 16 Permission to Evaluate is secured from the parent/guardian, data collection is requested from the regular education teacher responsible for the student's primary instruction. This individual evaluation phase includes a cognitive assessment, gifted rating scale, and standardized achievement tests in reading and mathematics. See next section for more information.
3. Describe your district's procedures for determining ELIGIBILITY (through MULTIPLE CRITERIA) and NEED (based on ACADEMIC STRENGTH) for potentially mentally gifted students (EVALUATION).

Outstanding intellectual and creative ability, the development of which requires individually designed programs and/or support services not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. This term includes a person who has an IQ of 130 or higher when multiple criteria, as set forth in the Department Guidelines, indicate gifted ability. Determination of gifted ability will not be based on IQ score alone. A person with an IQ score lower than 130 may be admitted to gifted programs when other educational criteria in the profile of the student strongly indicate gifted ability. Determination of mentally gifted ability, along with the need for gifted support is based on the following criteria: the teacher(s) recommendations; the parent recommendations; a student's recent group achievement test scores; recent individually administered ability and achievement test scores; rates of acquisition and retention; performance, expertise in one or more academic areas; specialized skills, interests, aptitudes (such as high level thinking skills, academic creatively, leadership skills, intense academic interest, communication skills, foreign language aptitude, and technology expertise); and/or other criteria indicating eligibility and need.

Determination of mentally gifted shall also include an assessment by a certified school psychologist. To gather all relevant information prior

to determining a student's eligibility, a Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GMDE) must be completed within 60 calendar days of the district's receipt of the parental permission for initial evaluation. Upon completion of this process, a Gifted Written Report (GWR) will be developed and presented to parents. The GWR will include information related to the student's strengths and needs as well as make recommendations as to whether the student is gifted and in need of specially designed instructions.

4. Describe the gifted programs* that are offered to provide opportunities for acceleration, enrichment, or both. *The word "programs" refers to the CONTINUUM OF SERVICES, not one particular option.

If a student is identified as being mentally gifted, a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP) team, including the parent(s), must convene in order to develop a GIEP within 30 days of issuance of the GWR. The GIEP will outline the planned instruction to be provided for the gifted student. The GIEP is reviewed at least annually for its appropriateness and will include annual educational goals and short-term learning outcomes to help the student achieve the goals. Upon completion of the initial GIEP, parents are presented with a Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA) with which they can elect to agree or disagree with the district's proposed program. Gifted services provided include enrichment opportunities within the classroom as well as activities, workshops and competitions outside of the regular education classroom. If agreement between parents and the district cannot be reached, parents may request mediation or an impartial due process hearing.

Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Date