

**Talented and Gifted Students Program**

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) recognizes its responsibility to identify gifted and talented students within the Bethany Public School District (District). The Board is committed to providing identification and assessment which is responsive to students' economic conditions, gender, developmental differences, disabling conditions, and cultural diversity.

For purposes of this policy, "gifted and talented students" means a child identified by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) as a) possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of very superior intellectual, creative, or specific academic capability and b) needing differentiated instruction or services beyond those being provided in the general education program in order to realize the child's intellectual, creative, or specific academic potential. The term includes children with extraordinary learning ability and children with outstanding talent in the creative arts.

For purposes of this policy "outstanding talent in the creative arts" means a child identified by the PPT as gifted and talented on the basis of demonstrated or potential achievement in music, the visual arts, or the performing arts.

The District may provide educational programs for the talented and/or gifted, within budgetary constraints that include a broad spectrum of learning experiences which increase knowledge and develop skills necessary for the student to function successfully in society while encouraging students to excel in areas of special competence and interest.

The identification process is based on a multi-criteria assessment process, typically including both subjective and objective data. The process must include multiple measures in order to identify student strengths in intellectual ability, creativity, or a specific academic area. Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to, tests of academic achievement, aptitude, intelligence, and creativity; achievement test scores; grades; student performance or products; samples of student work; parent/guardian, student, and/or teacher recommendation; and other appropriate measures. The identification methodology will include consideration of all students, including those who are English language learners and those with Individualized Education Plans or 504 Plans, be developmentally appropriate, non-discriminatory, and related to the programs and services offered by the District.

The final determination in the identification of students as gifted and/or talented must be done by a PPT. Such PPT charged with this responsibility shall be composed of a group of certified professionals representing each of the teaching, administrator, and pupil personnel staffs.

Though early identification of the gifted and/or talented is important, it is essential that the identification of these students be recognized as a continuing process in that special abilities and skills appear at different times in the lives of many children and new children are regularly being enrolled in the school.

## INSTRUCTION

6172.1(b)

Upon the identification of a student as talented and/or gifted, the District shall provide notification of such identification to the parents/guardians of such student. Such notice shall include, but need not be limited to:

1. an explanation of how such student was identified as talented and/or gifted;
2. the contact information for the District's employee in charge of the provision of services to talented and gifted students, or, if there is no such employee, the District's employee in charge of the provision of special education and related services;
3. the employee at the State Department of Education (SDE) who has been designated as responsible for providing information and assistance to boards of education and parents/guardians of students related to talented and gifted students, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes;
4. any association in the state that provides support to talented and/or gifted students.

The District, should it decide to offer services to the gifted and/or talented, may utilize the guidelines, developed and promulgated by the SDE, for providing services to those students. The guidelines include best practices for the District to consider for 1) addressing the intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted and talented students in the school and 2) providing teacher training and professional development on talented and gifted students.

Legal References:      Connecticut General Statutes § 10-3  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-76a(e)  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-76d(e)  
                                 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sections 10-76a-1-10-761-1  
                                 Public Act 19-184  
                                 Public Act 21-199  
  
                                 *Gifted and Talented Education: Guidance Regarding Identification and Service*,  
                                 SDE Guidance, March 2019

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