



Policies, Procedures, & Identification Process

The Chesterfield Township Elementary School REACH program is a dynamic, small-group enrichment program for eligible students in grades 1-6. Students must meet a set of varied and stringent criteria to be identified as gifted *and* eligible to participate in the supplemental academic program. The targeted enrichment program aims to maximize intellectually gifted learners' development by providing a supportive environment that promotes challenge and growth. *Click here for a brief overview of [Guidelines & Description](#) of the program.*

REACH Mission & Goals

The mission of the Chesterfield REACH program is to actively engage gifted students to maximize development and foster goal-oriented exploration, inquiry, and scholarly thinking.

Within this mission, the core goals of the REACH program are:

- *Cultivate higher-order thinking skills
- *Facilitate opportunities to apply creativity and curiosity to solve authentic, real-life problems
- *Improve communication skills
- *Utilize appropriate technology to solve meaningful problems
- *Understand and conduct empirical research

REACH Program & Curriculum

The Chesterfield REACH curriculum is arranged in a “spiraled reinforcement sequence” which allows for discovery and freedom of choice. Projects are designed so that each student's unique contribution is successful and recognized. A wide range of instructional strategies are utilized, along with varied texts and supporting materials, grouping strategies, and student choice. *The most recent updates to the REACH curriculum can be found [here](#).*

This program is consistent with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and the NJAC 6A:8 Standards and Assessment for Student Achievement.

Chesterfield Township Board of Education Policy: G&T

The Chesterfield Board of Education *Gifted & Talented* policy can be found [here](#).

Identification & Eligibility Procedures

The definition of “giftedness” as defined by the State of NJ DOE, is a “...student who possesses or demonstrates a high level of ability in one or more content areas when compared to [their] chronological peers in the school district and who requires modifications of [their] educational program [they] are to achieve in accordance with his/her capabilities”. The reference for this definition may be found here: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/A5000/4710_R1.HTM

Student Evaluation/Identification is conducted using our REACH Program Matrix. Students are nominated for evaluation through the REACH Program Matrix based on:

- ❖ IQ/cognitive scores
 - 3rd-grade screening (Fall of 3rd grade year)
 - Kindergarten (Spring of Kindergarten year)
- ❖ Parent/guardian nomination (Due third week of September, annually)
- ❖ Teacher recommendation
- ❖ Participation in the G&T program the previous year

Multiple Measures are scaled and calculated used to identify/evaluate students for eligibility in Tier 2 or Tier 3 of the Gifted and Talented Program:

- ❖ Cognitive Abilities - standardized norm-based measure of intelligence
- ❖ Academic Achievement - Standards-Based Report Card grades
- ❖ Creative Abilities - standardized, norm-based measure of creativity

A cutoff score is determined based on the population of students in a given grade level. High Achieving students make up approximately 10% of the population while gifted students make up approximately 2-5% of a given population, therefore we use these percentages to evaluate our students and determine the score required for entry into Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the G&T program. *REACH Matrix scoring rubrics by grade level may be found [here](#).*