

Gifted Student Identification Policy

Introduction:

At Christine Duncan Heritage Academy, we are committed to providing an inclusive and supportive learning environment that nurtures the diverse talents and abilities of all our students. In line with this commitment, we recognize the importance of identifying and supporting gifted students who demonstrate exceptional intellectual capabilities. This policy outlines the procedures and criteria for identifying gifted students at our school, utilizing the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) screener as one of the assessment tools.

Definition of Giftedness:

Giftedness is not solely defined by high academic achievement, but rather encompasses a wide range of exceptional abilities and potential. At Christine Duncan Heritage Academy, we define giftedness as:

"Gifted students are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude or competence in one or more domains, including intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership, or specific academic areas, and who require differentiated educational programs or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to fully develop their capabilities."

Identification Process:

1. Screening Phase:

- All students at Christine Duncan Heritage Academy will undergo universal screening using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) during a specified grade level. The CogAT will be administered to students in third grade.
- The CogAT will assess students' cognitive abilities in three domains: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning.

2. Criteria for Selection:

- Students who score **in the 97 percentile** in any one or more of the three CogAT domains will be identified as potentially gifted.
- Students who meet the criteria will proceed to the next phase of the identification process which is the formal evaluation with a diagnostician.
- Students who do not meet the above criteria may retake the CogAt every two years.

3. Further Assessment:

- Identified students will undergo further assessment, which may include:
 - Review of academic performance and achievements.
 - Teacher and parent nominations and observations.
 - Additional standardized testing if deemed necessary.
- The purpose of further assessment is to gather comprehensive information about students' abilities and needs to determine eligibility for gifted services.

4. Identification Decision:

- A Gifted Identification Committee, comprised of administrators, teachers, counselors, and specialists, will review all assessment data and make a determination regarding gifted identification for each student.
- The committee will consider multiple criteria and perspectives to ensure fair and equitable identification practices.

5. Notification:

- Parents/guardians will be notified of the identification decision and provided with information about the gifted program and available services.
- Students identified as gifted will have access to appropriate differentiated instruction and enrichment opportunities tailored to their unique strengths and needs, as outlined in the NMPED Team Gifted Manual.

Appeals Process:

Parents/guardians who disagree with the identification decision may request an appeal. The appeals process will involve a review of the student's assessment data by an impartial panel, followed by a reconsideration of the identification decision.

Confidentiality:

All information related to gifted identification and services will be kept confidential in accordance with applicable privacy laws and regulations.

Review and Revision:

This Gifted Student Identification Policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with best practices in gifted education. Any revisions or updates will be communicated to stakeholders accordingly.

Conclusion:

At Christine Duncan Heritage Academy, we are dedicated to recognizing and supporting the unique abilities and potential of our gifted students. By implementing a comprehensive identification process that utilizes the CogAT screener among other assessment tools, we strive to provide an enriching educational experience that meets the diverse needs of all learners.

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