

Continuum of Academic Challenge & Enrichment Services

Park City School District is committed to serving all students through reasoning development and differentiated instruction designed to meet the needs of every learner. Our continuum of services approach recognizes that students have unique learning needs and focuses on matching students to appropriate services—not labeling them. Teachers and staff collaborate to offer the following tiers of services at the elementary level:

Tier I Services: Access to Rigor (All Students, K–5, Push-In)

All PCSD students have access to rigorous instruction that promotes critical thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving. PACE specialists support teachers by offering:

- Critical and creative thinking strategies
- Differentiation strategies
- K–5 Push-In

These services are available to all students and form the foundation of high-quality instruction across the district.

Tier II Services: Subject Specific Enrichment (Grades 3–5)

Some students demonstrate advanced achievement in a specific subject area. At Park City School District, PACE specialists support classroom teachers by:

- Using data to group students based on achievement and readiness. These flexible groups receive targeted enrichment in Math and/or Language Arts. The instruction goes beyond grade-level standards, incorporating depth and complexity to challenge advanced learners.
- Providing teachers with differentiated activities and academic resources that align with the needs of high-achieving students.

Participation in Tier II enrichment is based on ongoing data review at the local school level. Grade-level teams work closely with PACE specialists to determine which students would benefit from these services. Tier II enrichment typically serves the top 10-15% of students in a grade level.

It is important to note that participation in Tier II services does not guarantee placement in Tier III programming.

In middle school, Tier II enrichment services are provided through flexible groupings and are not part of the formal clustering model used for Tier III students.

Tier III Services: PACE Identified Highly Gifted Learners

Students with exceptional academic needs across multiple areas may qualify for Tier III services. Tier III services are designed for the top 5–8% of students and involve a separate identification process using district-wide data.

These students require ongoing support to meet their advanced intellectual and social-emotional development needs. In Tier III, students:

- Work with intellectual peers and the PACE specialist in weekly pull-out classes
- Engage in learning designed to meet their social-emotional needs
- Use resources aligned to the scope of their abilities and interests

Tier III services begin in grade 3 and continue through grade 4. In grade 5, students are reevaluated for continued services. Identified Tier III students are cluster-grouped in middle school according to their academic strengths.