

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM 2026-2027

Program Overview

Enrichment education is an integral component of the New Providence School District's curriculum, providing targeted services for students identified as gifted and talented while enriching learning for all students in grades K–6 in alignment with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Our enrichment framework offers students meaningful opportunities to expand their intellectual and creative capacities in a manner appropriate to their academic, social, and emotional development. The K–6 Gifted and Talented Program is dedicated to identifying students with exceptional general intellectual ability and providing tailored educational experiences to meet their specific learning needs. We strive to foster academic excellence, nurture unique talents, and encourage every child to reach their full potential. To accommodate diverse learning profiles, abilities, and interests, our services are delivered through a flexible, three-tiered model:

Tier 1: Enrichment within the Regular Classroom Setting (K–6)

- **Differentiated Instruction** – Differentiated instruction acknowledges each student's unique background knowledge, readiness, learning style, and interests to tailor teaching strategies effectively within the general education classroom. Teachers adjust content, instructional processes, student products, and the learning environment to meet the needs of all learners.
 - Strategies include tiered assignments, leveled curricular resources, interdisciplinary and independent project-based learning, interest centers, and flexible skill grouping.
- **STEM Investigations** – All students engage in hands-on learning experiences that emphasize real-world problem-solving, incorporate the engineering design process, and encourage open-ended inquiry and exploration at a variety of cognitive levels.

Tier 2: Enrichment beyond the Regular Classroom

- **Enrichment Events (K–6) & Clubs (Grades 1–6)** – Co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities designed to enrich all students. Options include after-school clubs, PTA-sponsored events, leadership roles, visual and performing arts activities, and community service projects.
- **Pull-Out Program (Grades 4–6)** – Identified students participate in small-group, theme-based units, projects, and activities tailored to their specific aptitudes. Based on demonstrated strengths, students may be invited to participate in one or more instruction cycles, each focused on 21st-Century Life and Careers and Technology Standards.
- Eligibility criteria for the Gifted and Talented Pull-Out Program include:
 - A Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) score of 130 or higher (administered in Grades 3 and 5).
 - An Advanced score on the Mathematics i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment.
 - An Advanced score on the Teachers College Reading Assessment.
 - A score of 90% or higher on locally administered Mathematics assessments.

- An average grade of "A" in both Language Arts and Mathematics during the 2025-2026 school year.*

**Grade criteria do not apply to incoming 4th graders, as letter grades are not assigned in 3rd grade. Incoming 4th graders meeting all other criteria will take a district-approved assessment.*

- An NJSLA score that exceeds expectations, according to the table below:

Grade	ELA Exceeded Expectations Score	Math Exceeded Expectations Score
3	1488	1421
4	1503	1461
5	1537	1499
6	1547	1534

Tier 3: Enrichment and Inquiry in the Mathematics Classroom (Grades 4–6)

- The G&T teacher collaborates with classroom teachers to support in-class mathematics enrichment as needed.
- The G&T teacher provides specialized enrichment resources for classroom use.
- The G&T teacher guides students seeking additional mathematical challenge through an independent Passion Project focused on an area of inquiry in mathematics.
- Eligibility criteria for a Tier 3 Mathematics Passion Project include:
 - A Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) score of 140 or higher (administered in Grades 3 and 5).
 - An Advanced score on the Mathematics i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment
 - A score of 95% or higher on the local Mathematics assessment.
 - An average grade of "A" in Mathematics during Trimester 1 of the 2026-2027 school year.
 - An NJSLA Mathematics score that exceeds expectations, as outlined in the score table above.

Upon meeting the initial criteria, a parent conference will be scheduled with the G&T teacher, classroom teacher, and building administrator to plan the inquiry project.

Please feel free to reach out to any member of our team with questions.

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