

**Pittsgrove Township School District**

**Gifted and Talented Program  
K – 12**

*2016 – 2017*

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## ***Program Definition and New Jersey Administrative Code***

The Pittsgrove Township School District's Gifted and Talented program is designed to meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1. The program goal is to ensure that the educational needs of all students are met and that students are provided with opportunities to excel and explore in areas of strength and interest.

Pittsgrove Township's Gifted and Talented Program adheres to the following definition developed by the NJ State Board of Education:

*Those students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability, in one or more content areas, when compared to their chronological peers in the local district and who require modification of their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities. ([N.J.A.C. 6A: 8, Standards and Assessment for Student Achievement](#))*

Selection for Pittsgrove Township's Gifted and Talented Program is also determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 8, Standards and Assessment for Student Achievement:

*District boards of education shall make provisions for an ongoing K-12 identification process for gifted and talented students that includes multiple measures, including but not limited to, achievement test scores, grades, student performance or products, intelligence testing, parent, student and/or teacher recommendation, and other appropriate measures.*

## ***Program Goals***

1. To develop human potential more fully by providing learning experiences for children who demonstrate a high performance capability in academic and/or whole talent areas.
2. To stimulate and promote the abilities and talents of children by providing enrichment opportunities.

## *Program Structure*

### **Enrichment for Elementary School: Kindergarten - Grade 5**

At the elementary level, the program model is grounded in the use of Differentiated Instruction to provide opportunities for enrichment.

1. Students in grades K-2 are identified for Language Arts and Mathematics enrichment based on their progress and performance in developing literacy and math skills.
2. Students in grades 3-5 are identified based on their math and literacy performance. Multiple measures are used to determine eligibility.
3. Based on identification criteria, students in grades K-5 will receive an Enrichment Program provided by their classroom teacher. Pull-out enrichment opportunities may be available. These enrichment experiences may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. At least one gifted experience in Language Arts or Mathematics per ten school days from their classroom teacher.
  - b. Placement in accelerated reading groups within the regular class.
  - c. Access to learning centers featuring challenging activities at or above the student's current grade level.
  - d. Access to higher-level reading books.
  - e. Differentiated instructional materials in mathematics.

### **Acceleration for Middle School: Grades 6 - 8**

At the middle school level, the Gifted and Talented Program places students in Mathematics and Language Arts courses based on ability and demonstrated performance. Courses include: Accelerated Language Arts in grades 6-8, Accelerated Mathematics in grades 6-7, and Algebra I in grade 8. This is a replacement program for Language Arts and Mathematics, grades 6-8.

### **Talent Program: Grades 3 - 8**

Additional enrichment opportunities are provided within the regular school curriculum as well as extra-curricular programs that provide students with opportunities to develop their potential in areas of achievement such as visual and performing arts. Students will receive experiences in the visual and performing arts through enrichment programs and/or school clubs for a minimum of one session per marking period. Experiences may include: Art Club, Music Lessons, Band, Drama Club, Newsletter, Yearbook Club, or extracurricular art and music programs. Students self-select participation in these activities based on their interest and needs.

**Honors and Advanced Placement for High School: Grades 9 - 12**

Qualified students in grades 9-12 may take a variety of Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Courses and entrance criteria are located in the A.P. Schalick High School Program of Studies.

## ***Identification of Students***

In order to identify students who demonstrate exceptional ability, along with students who demonstrate the potential for exceptional abilities and talents, the following criteria have been established for the Pittsgrove Township Gifted and Talented Program.

The criteria below will be used at the end of the current school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year/grade level. For example, the criteria listed for Grade 2 will determine students' placement in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In addition, the Teacher Recommendation will be conducted by the current year's teacher for placement in the subsequent school year/grade level.

When there are multiple scores included in a single criterion/category, those scores will be averaged together and then weighted by the category percentage. For example, NWEA MAP scores encompass Reading and Language Usage. Scores from both Reading and Language Usage will be averaged and then weighted to determine the student's score for that criterion/category.

### **Elementary School: Kindergarten - Grade 1**

1. Skills on Report Card
2. DIBELS Scores
3. End-of-Year Assessment
4. Teacher Recommendation

### **Elementary School: Grade 2**

1. Skills on Report Card
2. DIBELS Scores
3. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores from Spring test
4. Teacher Recommendation

### **Elementary School: Grades 3 - 5**

1. Final Grades/Averages
2. Reading Levels (for Language Arts) and Comprehensive Assessment (for Math)
3. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores from Spring test
4. Teacher Recommendation

### **Middle School: Grades 6 - 8**

1. Final Grades/Averages in Reading/Writing for Language Arts and Mathematics
2. Comprehensive Assessment
3. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores from Spring test
4. Teacher Recommendation

### **Talent Program: Grades 3 - 8**

1. Teacher Recommendation
2. Student/Parent request with teacher approval

## *Identification Criteria Charts*

The criteria outlined in the following charts are used as a basis from which placement decisions are made. The criteria will be used at the end of the current school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year/grade level. Students with the highest combined scores from criteria outlined below will be eligible for possible placement into the Pittsgrove Township Gifted and Talented Program.

Below are the criteria charts and corresponding percentages of each category used to rank the potential candidates and determine eligibility for placement into the Pittsgrove Township's Gifted and Talented Program. Scores from each category will be added together to determine an overall score for placement. Students with the highest total scores will be offered the opportunity to participate, until the class(es) is/are filled.

If additional space is available in any one particular program, priority will be given to students who earn the next possible highest scores, based upon the outlined criteria.

<b>Grades K-1: Enrichment Language Arts &amp; Mathematics</b>				
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Skills on Report Card</b>	<b>DIBELS</b>	<b>End-of-Year Assessment</b>	<b>Teacher Recommendation</b>
<b>Reading</b>	25%	25%	25%	25%
<b>Math</b>	25%	25%	25%	25%

<b>Grade 2: Enrichment Language Arts &amp; Mathematics</b>				
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Skills on Report Card</b>	<b>DIBELS</b>	<b>NWEA Spring MAP Scores</b>	<b>Teacher Recommendation</b>
<b>L.A.</b>	25%	25%	25%	25%
<b>Math</b>	25%	25%	25%	25%

### **Skills on Report Card:**

The report card encompasses all skills taught throughout the school year. Students' skill levels are categorized by the following: Beginning, Developing, and Secure, based upon their ability. All skills should be on a "Secure" level by the end of the school year.

### **DIBELS:**

Assessments that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading and math skills.

<b>Grades 3-5: Enrichment Language Arts &amp; Mathematics</b>					
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Final Grades</b>	<b>Reading Levels</b>	<b>Comprehensive Assessment</b>	<b>NWEA Spring MAP Scores</b>	<b>Teacher Recommendation</b>
<b>L.A.</b>	40%	25%		25%	10%
<b>Math</b>	40%		25%	25%	10%

<b>Grades 6-8: Accelerated Language Arts &amp; Mathematics</b>				
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Final Grades</b>	<b>Comprehensive Assessment</b>	<b>NWEA Spring MAP Scores</b>	<b>Teacher Recommendation</b>
<b>L.A.</b>	40%	25%	25%	10%
<b>Math</b>	40%	25%	25%	10%

**Reading Levels:**

When your child enters a new grade, he/she is assessed and assigned a guided reading level based on word-knowledge, comprehension, and fluency. The levels range alphabetically from A to Z, with level A representing the lowest level and level Z the highest.

**Comprehensive Assessment:**

The comprehensive assessment is similar to an end-of-year assessment. This will assess students' skills and knowledge on material learned throughout the entire school year.

**NWEA MAP Scores:**

The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) provides research-based assessments, including Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The MAP tests measure student progress in Reading, Language Usage, and Math. MAP scores indicate what a student knows, is ready to learn, and is projected to achieve.



## ***Procedures for Identification and Admission***

### **Identifying New Program Participants, Kindergarten - Grade 8**

1. Classroom teachers can recommend a student. The student's performance will be reviewed against the program criteria.
2. There will be a review of the program criteria at the end of each school year to identify students, independent of teacher recommendations.
3. Parents/guardians will be notified during the summer if their son/daughter met the eligibility criteria and has been accepted into the Gifted and Talented Program. Parents/guardians must accept/decline the opportunity to have their child placed and participate in the Gifted and Talented Program.

### **Recommendation for Program Placement – Grades 6 - 8**

1. Placement for Accelerated classes at the Pittsgrove Township Middle School is based upon four criteria: a) Final grades/averages in Reading and Writing for Language Arts and Mathematics, b) Comprehensive assessment, c) NWEA MAP scores from the spring test administration, and d) Teacher recommendation. These four criteria will be used at the end of the current school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year.
2. The process to determine eligibility and placement in the Accelerated courses will be conducted annually.
3. Students with the highest total scores are eligible to participate in the Gifted and Talented Program each year by meeting the aforementioned identification criteria.

## *Additional Characteristics of the K-8 Gifted & Talented Program*

### **Placement Questions**

1. Parents should contact their child's school should they have a question regarding their son's/daughter's eligibility for the program.
2. The student's profile and the Gifted and Talented Program criteria will be reviewed with the parent/guardian.

### **Grading**

#### **Elementary School: Kindergarten - Grade 5**

1. Students in the K-5 Enrichment Program will not receive separate grades for their activities.
2. Parents will receive progress reports outlining their child's progress.

#### **Middle School: Grades 6 - 8**

1. Students in the 6-8 Accelerated Language Arts and/or 6-8 Mathematics courses will receive grades for their performance.
2. The Gifted and Talented Program at the Pittsgrove Township Middle School is a complete replacement program for Language Arts and/or Mathematics.

#### **Talent Program: Grades 3 - 8**

1. Students in the Grades 3-8 Talent Program will not receive grades for their activities.

## **Probation**

1. No students will be accepted into the Gifted and Talented Program on a probationary basis.
    - a. Students with the highest total ranking points will be given the opportunity to participate in the program until the class(es) is/are filled.
  2. Students in the middle school must maintain at least a B average or higher in the accelerated classes for each marking period
    - a. Students who earn a C will be placed on probation for one marking period.
    - b. Students who earn a C for a marking period grade while on probation will be removed from the program at the conclusion of that marking period.
- \*The exception is for students in Algebra I who have reached the end of the second or third marking period.

## **Removal from Program**

### **1. Removal from Elementary and Middle School Programs**

Students may be removed from the Gifted and Talented Program if they fail to meet the program criteria, their academic record indicates a decline in classroom performance, or if parents request that their child be removed.

- a. At the middle school level, students must maintain the program requirements for grades during each marking period. To continue enrollment in the program, students must earn a B average or higher on their report card. Students earning a C (while on probation), D, or F on their report card will be removed from the program at the conclusion of that marking period. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the parent/guardian should contact the teacher prior to the end of the marking period.
- b. The teacher should notify the parent/guardian if a student is not maintaining his/her grade requirement.
- c. Removal of any student from the Gifted and Talented Program will result in notification to the parent.

## **2. Removal from Talent Program**

During the school year, students may be removed from the Talent Program upon teacher or parent recommendation. Recommendation for removal should be based on one or more of the following circumstances: student lack of interest in talent activities, misbehavior during talent activities, parent request.

Removal of any student will result in notification to the parent in writing.

## **Program Evaluation**

The Gifted and Talented Program will be evaluated by district and school administrators at the end of each school year.

*Please contact your child's school with any questions regarding the Pittsgrove Township School District's Gifted and Talented Program.*