

# Program Challenge Gifted Education

Rockdale County Public  
Schools

# Georgia Code IDDD

## RULE 160-4-2-.38 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

### (1) **DEFINITIONS.**

(a) **Gifted Student** - a student who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative ability(ies), exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, and/or excels in specific academic fields, and who needs special instruction and/or special ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his or her abilities.

(b) **Differentiated Curriculum** - courses of study in which the content, teaching strategies and expectations of student mastery have been adjusted to be appropriate for gifted students.

# Bright child vs. Gifted Child

## **A Bright Child:**

- Knows the answers
- Is interested
- Is attentive
  
- Has good ideas
- Works hard
- Answers the questions
- Top group
- Listens with interest
  
- Learns with ease
- 6-8 repetitions for mastery
- Understands ideas

## **A Gifted Learner:**

- Asks the questions
- Is highly curious
- Is mentally and physically involved
  
- Has wild, silly ideas
- Plays around, yet tests well
- Discusses in detail, elaborates
- Beyond the group
- Shows strong feeling and opinions
  
- Already knows
- 1-2 repetitions for mastery
- Constructs abstractions

# Bright child vs. Gifted Child, cont.

## A Bright Child:

- Enjoys peers
- Grasps the meaning
- Completes assignments
- Is receptive
- Copies accurately
- Enjoys school
- Absorbs information
- Technician
- Good memorizer
- Enjoys sequential presentation
- Is alert
- Is pleased with own learning

## A Gifted Learner:

- Prefers adults
- Draws inferences
- Initiates projects
- Is intense
- Creates a new design
- Enjoys learning
- Manipulates information
- Inventor
- Good guesser
- Thrives on complexity
  
- Is keenly observant
- Is highly self-critical

# Qualifying for the Gifted Program

## Option A – both areas met

### ■ Mental Ability:

**Kdg – 2nd:** 99th percentile on *composite or full scale score* of a standardized test of mental ability

**3rd –12th:**  $\geq$ 96th percentile on *composite or full scale score* of a standardized test of mental ability

### ■ Achievement: $\geq$ 90th percentile on total reading, total math *or* total battery score of a standardized achievement test

# Qualifying for the Gifted Program

Option B – 3 out of 4 areas must be met

## ■ ***Mental Ability:***

**Kdg–12th:**  $\geq 96^{\text{th}}$  percentile on *composite or full scale score* of a standardized test of mental ability

## ■ ***Achievement:***

**Kdg – 12:**  $\geq 90^{\text{th}}$  percentile, by age or grade, on *total reading, total math or total battery score* of a standardized achievement test

# Option B continued

- **Creativity:**  $\geq$  90th percentile on
  - the total battery of a standardized test of creativity *OR*
  - on a standardized creativity characteristics rating scale *OR*
  - structured observation/evaluation of creative products and/or performance as evaluated by a panel of three or more qualified evaluators.
  
- **Motivation:**  $\geq$  90th percentile on
  - a standardized characteristics rating scale (motivational) *OR*
  - superior rating (numerical score of  $\geq$  90 on scale of 1 – 100) on a structured observation/evaluation of student-generated products and/or performances as evaluated by a panel of three or more qualified evaluators *OR*
  - Grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, using an average of grades over the previous two school years.

# Referral Procedures

- Gifted Education teacher collects referrals from mass screening, teachers, parents, or student peers.
- Teacher enters data on the Screening Form; valid test scores already in the student's files are recorded; work samples are collected for further evidence.
- GST meets to determine if there is evidence to evaluate further; if so, a **Consent to Evaluate** form will be sent to parents.
- Further testing is completed.
- An **Eligibility Report** will be filled out for each referred student to determine if he or she qualifies for gifted services. Option A and Option B are considered.
- If eligible, a **Notification of Eligibility** is sent to parents. If ineligible, a **Notification of Non-eligibility** must be completed and sent to parents.
- After all paperwork is complete, the student may begin gifted classes.



# Gifted Support Team Meetings

- Fall screening: ***OCTOBER 1***
- Spring Screening –***MARCH 1***
  
- a) Gifted Ed teachers screen CoGAT and ITBS scores for potential candidates
- b) Classroom teachers, parents and others make individual referrals and include work samples


# School-wide ***GIFTED AND TALENTED SEARCH***

- New in January 2004 due to OCR regulations
- Conducted the last two weeks of January
- Each teacher in the elementary and middle schools will complete an observation form to identify gifted characteristics in the areas of ***Leadership, Creativity, Advanced Academic Ability, and Motivation/task Commitment.***
- Process will allow equal consideration of all students to the gifted education program, a requirement of the Office of Civil Rights.
- This will be completed every other year.

# Make up work policy for Program Challenge K-5

## ■ Administrative Bulletin ab-FG

- “It is important to realize that while PC students are to be held responsible for mastery of all regular subject material, they should not be required to make up all daily work or homework given while attending PC classes.”
- Special events or assignments should be communicated in advance
- Recommended that tests, presentations, etc. be scheduled for days other than PC days
- Modified assignments may be made for PC students if necessary to assess mastery of introduced concepts. If so, please complete a “*While you were out*” form for each student to help ensure good communication between teacher, student and parent.



For further questions concerning  
the gifted program...

- Please contact the gifted education  
teacher(s) at your school (*Stephanie Tyler*)

OR

- Contact Dianne Swann, Gifted Education  
Coordinator, at  
[dswann@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:dswann@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

# Gifted Endorsement

- RCPS is offering gifted endorsement classes that begin Aug. 20th.
- Thursday nights at RCA from 5:00-9:30.
- These courses will help you learn the characteristics of gifted children, as well as how to identify and teach them effectively.
- Five courses w/ an embedded field experience = 20 PLUs