

GIFTED EDUCATION IN THE WATER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The mission of the Water Valley School District gifted program is to provide a challenging, qualitatively different educational experience directed to the unique needs of gifted students.

The Mississippi Gifted Education Act of 1989, amended, 1993, mandates that each public school district within the state provide gifted education programs for intellectually gifted students in grades two through six. Services are provided by a properly endorsed teacher for a minimum of five hours per week.

Intellectually gifted children are those who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process.



REFERRAL CRITERIA FOR THE GIFTED PROGRAM

Referrals to the gifted program may be made by a parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, peer, self, or anyone else having reason to believe that the student might be intellectually gifted. Neither grades nor achievement test scores shall eliminate a student from the identification process for the intellectually gifted program. All measures collected throughout the identification process shall be selected based upon the strengths of the individual student being considered.

A student must satisfy two of the following criteria at the referral level before moving forward in the identification process. Listed below are the Water Valley School District minimal acceptable criteria on each measure used at this stage, which has been approved by the Mississippi Department of Education.

- ❖ 90th percentile on the verbal, quantitative, or non-verbal of a group intelligence test*
- ❖ A score in the superior range on a published characteristics of giftedness measure*
- ❖ A score in the superior range on a published measure of creativity*
- ❖ A score in the superior range on a published measure of leadership*
- ❖ 90th percentile in one area and 95th percentile in one area on an achievement test, or*
- ❖ 90th percentile on an existing measure of individual intelligence that has been administered within the past twelve months (for students transferring from another state)*

Once the referral data has been collected, the Gifted Education Committee shall review all data and determine if the student has satisfied minimal criteria on at least two measures and should move forward to the assessment stage.

ASSESSMENT PHASE I

After parent permission is obtained, district personnel shall collect measures from at least three categories of assessment measures. A student must satisfy three of the following criteria to proceed to phase II:

- ❖ A full scale score at or above the 91st percentile on a normed group measure of intelligence*
- ❖ A score at or above the superior range on a normed characteristics of giftedness checklist*
- ❖ A score at or above the superior range on a normed measure of creativity*
- ❖ A score in the superior range on a normed measure of leadership*

- ❖ *A score at or above the 91st percentile on a normed measure of cognitive abilities*
- ❖ *A score at or above the 90th percentile in one area and 95th percentile in one area on total language, total math, total reading, or the composite on a normed achievement test.*

PHASE II

If a student meets three of the above criteria, the student will be administered an individual intelligence test by a district employed examiner. Results from other examiners will not be accepted. A student must score at or above the 91st percentile to satisfy eligibility criteria. An assessment report is written by the examiner and forwarded to the Local Survey Committee for review and determination of eligibility. Parents are notified of assessment results and eligibility determination in writing.

APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals must be presented in writing to the Director of the Gifted Program. The Local Survey Committee will review appeals, conduct hearings and notify parents of the decision of the committee.

RE-TESTING

Students who do not satisfy the criteria may not be retested until the completion of one full school year. In order to be re-tested, the student must have scored above the 75th percentile on the intelligence test. Parents must submit a written request indicating rationale for re-testing. The Gifted Education Committee will review the request and make a final determination on retesting eligibility. All testing must be completed by a district employed examiner.

ANNUAL REASSESSMENT

A committee meets annually to reassess each gifted student's continuation in the gifted program. Should the committee determine that the student should exit the program due to lack of progress or unsatisfactory participation, the student's parents will be notified and given opportunity to discuss the decision with the committee before the student is removed. If removed, the student may not re-enter for one entire school year.

Students who have been removed from the gifted program by parents may not reenter the program until the beginning of the next semester.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gifted regulations are located at www.mde.k12.ms.us

Questions may be directed to the Director of the Water Valley School District gifted program at 662-473-1203.

GOALS

Students will discover new ideas or solutions to situations by using their own thinking processes along with cognitive and affective learning experiences.

Students will discover the joy of exploration and discovery and a love of learning that will make them lifelong learners.

OBJECTIVES

Students will utilize thinking skills to discover, analyze and evaluate information to solve problems.

Students will demonstrate the ability to use creative problem solving skills.

Students will work effectively in group situations, both as a leader and as a member of the group.

Students will acquire the skills to retrieve and disseminate information using a variety of media.

Students will design and conduct meaningful research.

Students will demonstrate the ability to pursue areas of interest through in-depth investigation.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED STUDENTS

- ❖ Highly curious*
- ❖ Constructs abstractions*
- ❖ Draws inferences*
- ❖ Initiates projects*
- ❖ Creates new designs*
- ❖ Manipulates information Thrives on complexity*
- ❖ Keenly observant*
- ❖ Highly self-critical*
- ❖ Discusses and elaborates on questions*
- ❖ Masters skills quickly or already knows the skill*
- ❖ Inventive*

