

Definition of Mentally Gifted in Pennsylvania

Mentally gifted is defined as outstanding intellectual and creative ability the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. (22 Pa. Code §16.1)

The term “mentally gifted” includes a person who has an IQ of 130 or higher, when multiple criteria as set forth in Department Guidelines indicate gifted ability.

Determination of gifted ability will not be based on IQ score alone. A person with an IQ score lower than 130 may be admitted to gifted programs when other educational criteria in the profile of the person strongly indicates gifted ability.

Criteria, other than IQ score, which indicate gifted ability include, but are not limited to:

- Achievement
- Rate of Acquisition/Retention
- Demonstrated Achievement
- Early Skill Development

Determination of mentally gifted must include an assessment by a certified school psychologist. (22 Pa. Code §16.21(d))

Bellefonte Area School District

Gifted Screening and Evaluation Process

**At any time, parents have the right to request that their child be evaluated for the Bellefonte Enrichment Program (not to exceed one request per school year). A Gifted Permission to Evaluate must be sent by the school counselor within 10 days of receiving an oral or written request.



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GIFTED SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Level I: Universal Screening (K-5)*

- ◆ Teachers of grades kindergarten through fifth grade complete an Elementary Gifted Characteristics Form for each student annually.
- ◆ All second grade students will take the Otis-Lennon Student Abilities Test -8th Edition (OLSAT-8) during the PSSA testing window in the spring. Should your child meet the criteria, you will be contacted regarding next steps.
- ◆ K-5 teachers also review reading and math screeners and classroom based assessment results. They supply data for each student to a review team.
- ◆ Forms and data review are completed during specified times of the year for each grade level:
 - 5th Grade & 4th Grade, December
 - 3rd Grade, January
 - 2nd Grade, February
 - 1st Grade, March
 - Kindergarten, April
- ◆ The review team (Principal, School Counselor, and School Psychologist) examines the data collected to determine which students meet specified criteria

Level II: Individual Screening

- ◆ Students at Level II complete the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test-Second Edition (KBIT-2) with the school counselor or school psychologist.
- ◆ Students also complete a brief standardized achievement measure (such as the Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement -II) with the school psychologist.
- ◆ Scores from the brief achievement and intelligence measures, along with the number of gifted characteristics reported by the teacher, determine which students move to a Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GMDE) at Level III.



Common Acronyms:

GPTE - Gifted Permission to Evaluate
GMDE - Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation
GMDT - Gifted Multidisciplinary Team
GWR - Gifted Written Report
GIEP - Gifted Individualized Education Plan

Level III: Full Evaluation

- ◆ A Gifted Permission to Evaluate (GPTE) is sent from the Special Education office to parents.
- ◆ Upon receipt of the signed permission, the Gifted Multidisciplinary Team (GMDT) completes the evaluation within 60 calendar days.
- ◆ Parents and teachers complete rating scales and input forms to be used in the evaluation process.
- ◆ A certified school psychologist administers comprehensive tests of intellectual functioning and academic achievement.
- ◆ The team summarizes evaluation results in a Gifted Written Report (GWR).
- ◆ Determination of eligibility and need for gifted support services is based on the evaluation results summarized in the GWR.

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