

Franklin Township BOE GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION Curriculum DRAFT

Philosophy

The Mission of the Franklin Township School, in partnership with the entire community, is to educate all students to the fullest extent of their individual capabilities, to foster a desire for excellence and prepare students to succeed in future educational endeavors, in order to become responsible, respectful members in a democratic society.

In accordance with the mission statement of the Franklin Township School District, the Gifted and Talented Program is designed to provide appropriate and challenging educational experiences for the identified highly able learner, based upon Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and NJ Curriculum Standards.

Program Goals

- Develop the academic potential of identified gifted learners
- Provide in-depth learning opportunities in a specific area of study
- Provide an environment where risk-taking, curiosity, creativity, and alternate solutions are appreciated and welcomed
- Cultivate a sense of societal responsibility by developing leadership and social skills
- Promote creative productivity through the development of higher-order thinking skills, problem-solving, decision-making, and critical thinking
- Support differentiation of content, process, and product

Definition

The New Jersey Department of Education defines giftedness in N.J.A.C. 6A:8 as: *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.*

Franklin Township School recognizes and acknowledges this definition of giftedness.

Gifted and Talented Education: Policy 6171.2, excerpt

The chief school administrator shall develop and the board shall approve criteria* for identifying all gifted and talented students in kindergarten through grade 8.

***Criteria and Process:**

Grades K-2 --will engage in full class enrichment activities, after January (MP 3 and 4) of the school year, to help teachers address those learning needs of students who may excel in various curricular areas. The enrichment activities will be tailored to the interests of the children in the cohort as evidenced by student survey given by the G&T teacher.

***Grades 3-5 Identification Procedures**

- Nomination:
 - All student standardized test scores and GPA data shall be submitted for consideration in the data collection period in the fall of each year. All scores will be aggregated, and the students whose performance results place them in the upper extreme 95-100%, not to exceed 20% of each grade level (as indicated by pilot testing results for our district) will be considered for invitation to the program. Standardized testing per NJ DOE requirements will be performed once per year. In addition to evaluating standardized test data, nominations from teachers will be requested by the G&T teacher in the fall of each school year. Teacher referrals will be scored according to a qualitative rubric of 10 criteria and a scale of 100 points (page 49), and may be used to determine final eligibility in the case of a tie score.
 - In the case of student G&T program opt-out, the next high scoring student shall receive the invitation.
 - Parents may also nominate their children for consideration if they demonstrate exemplary report card grades but did not perform well on standardized testing scores. In this case, an additional screening test, SAGES-2 will be delivered by the gifted & Talented Teacher or school psychologist and evaluated if scores are in the upper extreme range (125-130 and above) range. If students enter the district from another school district or state, and do not have test scores, the WISC V will be used to assess for the program, upon parent request and permission.
- A parent or teacher nomination does not guarantee entry into the Gifted and Talented Program; a nomination means that the student's eligibility will be evaluated. The selection committee shall be comprised of the Principal, the director of Special Services, and the G&T Classroom teacher.

The guidance counselor may also participate when available. The selection team's decision is final, and no appeal shall be considered.

Prior year performance evaluation and continuation: If the student maintains an A average in the course, the student will be selected automatically for the next year. If the student maintains a B average in the G&T program, but an A average overall, the student test scores will be re-evaluated. If a student maintains a C or lower average, the student will return to the general education classroom for the subsequent year, and may be re-evaluated for the program the following year.

- **Grade 3 Data Collection**

- Terranova Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies scores
- DIBELS scores, prior year
- CBM Math scores, prior year
- DRA2 scores, current year

- **Grade 4 Data Collection**

- DIBELS scores, prior year
- CBM Math scores, prior year
- GPA, Prior Year
- DRA 2 Scores, Current Year
- Consideration of Prior G&T Performance

- **Grade 5 Data Collection**

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- *NJ ASK ; Science, Grade 4,
- NJ ASK ELA and Math, where available for consideration
- NJ PARCC Scores ELA/Math for 2015-16 and forward
- Evaluation of Student Report Cards/GPA
- DRA 2 Scores, current year
- Insight Ability Test (grade 5) or Parent Referral: WISC V
- Consideration of Prior G&T Performance

For Grades 3-5, upon invitation to the program, the G&T teacher will send home a parental permission form, and upon receipt, will administer the SAGES 2 Screening for G&T Elementary Students, which will determine final eligibility for those scoring in the 98th or greater percentile. If the cohort does not score in that range the range may be adjusted to 95th percentile or higher.

***Grades 6-8 Identification Procedures**

- Nomination:
- All student standardized test scores and GPA shall be submitted for consideration in the data collection period in the fall of each year. All scores will be aggregated, and no more than the top 20% of each grade level (as indicated by pilot testing results for our district) will be considered for

invitation to the program. Standardized testing per NJ DOE requirements will be done once per year. In addition to evaluating standardized test data, nominations from teachers will be requested by the G&T teacher in the fall of each school year. Teacher referrals will be scored according to a qualitative rubric of 10 criteria and a scale of 100 points (page 49), and may be used to determine final eligibility in the case of a tie score.

- In the case of student G&T program opt-out, the next high scoring student shall receive the invitation.
- Parents may also nominate their children for consideration if they demonstrate exemplary report card grades but did not perform well on standardized testing scores. In this case, an additional screening test, WISC V will be delivered by the school psychologist and evaluated if scores are in the upper extreme range (125-130 and above) range. If students enter the district from another school district or state, and do not have test scores, the WISC V will be used to assess for the program, upon parent request and permission.
- A parent or teacher nomination does not guarantee entry into the Gifted and Talented Program; a nomination means that the student's eligibility will be evaluated. The selection committee shall be comprised of the Principal, the director of Special Services, and the G&T Classroom teacher. The guidance counselor may also participate when available. The selection team's decision is final, and no appeal shall be considered.

Grade 6,7,8 Data Collection

- **Data Collection:**

- NJ ASK or PARCC Scores ELA/Math
- NJ ASK Science score
- Evaluation of Student Report Cards/GPA
- Lexile Reading level, where available; DRA 2 Scores
- Teacher Rating Scale
- Referral: WISC V test
- Consideration of Prior G&T Performance

Prior year performance evaluation and continuation: If the student maintains an A average in the course, the student will be selected automatically for the next year. If the student maintains a B average in the G&T program, but an A average overall, the student test scores will be re-evaluated, and the student may be asked to take the aptitude test (WISC-V). If a student maintains a C or lower average in the gifted program, the student will return to the general education classroom for the subsequent year, and may be re-evaluated for the program the following year.