

OVERVIEW OF THE GIFTED/TALENTED PROGRAM

Screening for the Gifted and Talented Program

While the parents or the regular education teacher may ask for evaluation for students suspected of meeting the definition of gifted and/or talented, the local education agency determines the screening procedures before administering the psychological and /or achievement test required by state mandate.

Gifted and Talented Definition

The gifted program provides screening, identification, and programs for exceptional children who demonstrate abilities that give evidence of high performance in academic and intellectual aptitude.

The talent program seeks to screen, identify, and provide services for children who possess unique talent in the visual or performing arts.

Rights of exceptional children

Exceptional children, ages 3-21 including gifted and talented children, are protected under the guidelines for special education services. The gifted and/or talented child has a right to free appropriate public education, an individualized education plan (IEP), a reevaluation, as well as due process procedures if these guarantees are not met.

Screening for the Gifted and Talented

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Service Delivery Models

The continuum for gifted and talented students include: regular classroom with supplemental aids and services, a resource center or class, a self contained class and preschool services. At the IEP meeting the school system's representative and the parent determines what program best meets the needs of the child as indicated by the evaluation report.

Curriculum for the Gifted and Talented

The gifted and talented program seeks to meet the needs of the child who is identified as gifted and/or talented. State regulations mandate services to the identified gifted/talented child that will provide challenging curriculum unique to his/her abilities. Gifted and talented curriculum emphasizes: enrichment, acceleration, higher level thinking skills, multi-disciplinary content, abstract thinking skills, and a higher degree of complexity than regular classroom curriculum.

Teacher Certification

In order to be certified to teach gifted children in the state of Louisiana, a teacher must have a master's degree and meet course requirements as established by the La. Department of Education.

In order to be certified to teach talented children a teacher must meet state criteria for talented teachers, which includes working with children and evidence of professional accomplishments in the artistic field in which he/she is applying.

Contact person for Gifted and Talented Programs

The Supervisor of Special Education in the local school districts is responsible for the gifted/talented programs in his /her districts ([see Parish List of Contacts](#)).