

GIFTED CURRICULUM

Gifted services must meet Georgia Performance Standards while providing differentiated curriculum based on the needs of gifted students. This gifted curriculum includes more elaborate, complex, and in-depth study of major ideas, problems, and themes than would ordinarily be available in the regular classroom. The curriculum blends instruction in math, science, social studies, language arts, foreign language, reading and fine arts into units that examine central themes, issues, problems, and topics. The Junior Great Books Literature Series is a valuable part of the K-8 Venture curriculum.

Fundamental to curricula developed for gifted students are learning experiences that develop the use of higher level thinking skills and processes. This instruction enables the students to apply these skills and make informed decisions, to understand and apply concepts, to make judgments, and to define, create, and implement strategies for solving problems.

DELIVERY MODELS

A combination of delivery models is used in Paulding County to meet the needs of the gifted students:

Elementary students participate in a resource program for six segments each week taught by a certified gifted teacher. Students' achievement is recorded at the end of every nine weeks and/or semester via the report card.

The middle school gifted student is served daily in a language arts and/or science based program with a certified teacher of the gifted. This class takes the place of his/her regular language arts and/or science class.

The high school gifted student has a variety of options for daily service. These options include Honors classes, Advanced Placement courses, and post secondary options.

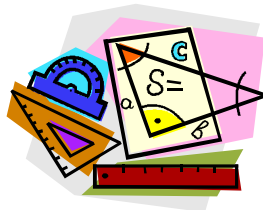
Gifted curricula may also include an annual thematic banquet, creative drama, field trips, and career and college exploration.

VISION STATEMENT

We will provide the highest educational experiences for the children of Paulding County. We intend that parents choose the Paulding County School District to provide the best educational opportunities for their children.

MISSION STATEMENT

- To prepare children to become productive citizens in our society through quality educational experiences.
- To prepare children to make sound, well-reasoned decisions on career choices through educational experiences geared toward career awareness.
- To help children become self-disciplined through providing a safe, structured, well-ordered learning environment.



Paulding County School District

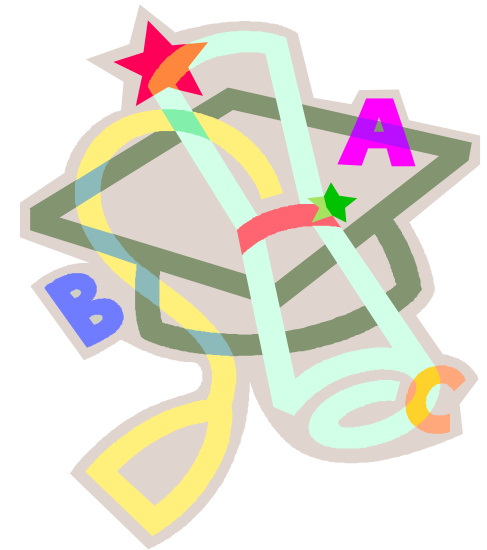
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THE VENTURE PROGRAM

**Paulding County School District
Gifted Services**



The Georgia State Board of Education defines a gifted student as "... 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 ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his/her abilities."

Paulding County provides services for identified gifted students at all grade levels. The gifted program is designed to meet the specific needs of these students and extend competencies in the areas of cognitive skills, collaboration, problem solving, creativity, reference skills, and communication skills beyond the experience of the regular classroom.

Paulding County's Venture program is state funded. The procedures for identifying and placing students in the gifted program are governed by the Georgia State Department of Education.



EVALUATION FOR GIFTED ELIGIBILITY

Students in Paulding County are evaluated periodically for gifted eligibility.

- During first semester of grades K-12, teachers observe all students for characteristics of gifted students and make referrals.
- Teacher, parent, peer and self-referrals are accepted each year during specified referral windows.
- Eligibility team meetings and formal testing continue until May.
- During the first semester of second, third, fifth, sixth and eight grades, all students are evaluated on the basis of scores from administration of the ITBS or CogAT Tests. These tests are administered district wide according to State Department of Education guidelines.

IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT OF STUDENT IN THE GIFTED PROGRAM

Referrals

Students may be referred by teachers, parents, peers, or as a result of district-wide testing. Referral windows are set at three intervals throughout the school year. Referrals are reviewed by the gifted eligibility team. This team determines which students will be formally evaluated.

Evaluation

Following parental consent, the local school evaluates the student's mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation through the use of nationally normed tests, instruments, performances, and standardized rating scales, as outlined by the State Department of Education guidelines.

Eligibility

The eligibility team at the local school reviews the relevant information about the referred student. A decision is made by the team according to state eligibility regulations regarding eligibility or the need for further assessment.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for gifted services, a student must either (a) score at the 99th percentile (for grades K-2) or the 96th percentile (grades 3-12) on the composite or full scale score of a standardized test of mental ability **AND** at the 90th percentile on the total battery, total math or total reading section of a standardized achievement test **OR** (b) quality through the multiple-criteria assessment process by meeting the criteria in any three of the following four areas:

1. **Mental Ability** - 96th percentile on a composite or appropriate component score on a standardized test of mental ability

2. **Achievement** - 90th percentile on a Total Battery, Total Reading or Total Math section of a standardized achievement test
3. **Creativity** - 90th percentile on the total battery of a standardized test or Superior rating (90%) on a standardized creativity characteristics rating scale
4. **Motivation** - Superior rating (90%) on a standardized motivation scale. In grades 10-12 a student may also qualify by obtaining a certain grade point average in courses taken in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language over the past two years. This qualifying GPA must be achieved by no more than 10% of the students in each grade level and may not be lower than 3.5 but probably will be higher.
 - A qualifying score on a nationally normed test is required to meet the criteria in at least two areas.
 - Any data used to establish eligibility in one area cannot be used to establish eligibility in another area.
 - Any test score, evaluation instrument, or product/performance used to establish eligibility must be current within two years. Students that are tested and are not determined eligible for gifted services cannot be tested until at least two years have elapsed from the initial gifted screening date.
 - Outside data may be accepted and considered but cannot be substituted for school generated data to determine eligibility.
 - Students that transfer into the district from another Georgia school district where they were identified and placed into a gifted program, are automatically eligible for gifted services. The State Department of Education rule for reciprocity within the state applies. Students from gifted programs outside the state of Georgia are not automatically placed into the gifted program. Testing procedures and eligibility screening must be reviewed to determine alignment with Georgia guidelines. The eligibility team will review records and determine if additional testing is required. Parents are then notified and consent secured before additional screening is conducted.

