Liberty County Schools

LIBERTY COUNTY’S PROGRAM FOR GIFTED STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Liberty County’s program for gifted students includes the following goals:

provide an environment that will cultivate and encourage intellectual and creative abilities,

provide students with appropriate enrichment, acceleration, and in-depth study through challenging units,

develop self-esteem, allowing students to realize and acknowledge their own and others’ skills and talents.

Liberty County’s Program for Elementary Gifted Students

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, academic, creative, and/or artistic ability are provided with special instructional services in the gifted program. Eligibility for placement in this program is determined by the Georgia Department of Education and the local Board of Education. Additionally, referrals for gifted services can be made by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, and other individuals with knowledge of the student’s abilities.
Program

All gifted students in our seven elementary schools attend gifted classes either at their school or at a partner school. Students attend classes five and half hours per day, one day a week by grade level. The curriculum is compacted so the students cover all necessary objectives in addition to an advanced curriculum.

An exciting learning environment is created and implemented allowing these students to explore new skills. Students are offered a variety of learning experiences including *Interact Units*, *Junior Great Books*, *Logic*, and many more units in a wide variety of topics. The classrooms are equipped with a variety of technology devices and programs which allow students to work own research, logic activities, productions and various other activities. Internet activities are available for daily use in each classroom.

The gifted students are exposed to a challenging curriculum providing more individual interaction with certified gifted teachers because of smaller class size. The students are offered many opportunities to participate in cooperative teams with peers who have similar capabilities. The focus of the gifted program at the elementary school level is to have students become emergent, self-reliant learners who fully develop cooperative learning, analytical thinking, critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative thinking skills.

Personal Characteristics of Gifted Learners

Each gifted student is unique. Each child had different interests, his or her own personality, and different areas of high ability. However, these students also share certain traits. It is the degree to which they exhibit these traits that sets them apart from others. If most of these characteristics describe your child or student, you may wish to refer him or her for consideration for eligibility.

- Good problem solving abilities
- Insatiable curiosity
- Long attention span
- Sensitivity
- Compassion for others
- Perfectionism
- Vivid imagination
- Excellent sense of humor
- Advanced mathematical ideas
- Good memory
- Fascination with books
- Rapid learning ability
- Ability with puzzles
- High degree of energy
- Self directed
- Extensive vocabulary
- Preference for older playmates
- Advanced reading level
Eligibility and Referral

Under Georgia Rule 160-4-2-38, the requirements for placement into the gifted program in grades K-2 are a score at the 99th percentile on a mental ability test and a score at the 90th percentile or higher in the areas of achievement. For grades 3-12, the student must score at the 96th percentile or higher on a mental ability test and at the 90th percentile or higher in the area of achievement. Scores in the 25th to 75th percentile range are considered average scores.

OR

A student may qualify through multiple-criteria assessment by meeting criteria in any three of the four areas listed below.

1. Mental ability test: 96th percentile or higher
2. Achievement test: 90th percentile or higher
3. Creativity test or scale: 90th percentile of higher
4. Motivation: A minimum score of 90th percentile on a motivational rating scale or a superior rating (numerical score of > 90 on a scale of 1 - 100) on a student generated product or performance evaluated by a panel of three or more individuals.

Any student who scores about the 90th percentile on the ITBS administered by the school will be automatically referred. Additionally, CRCT scores will be reviewed for possible automatic referral. Any other student may be referred by contacting the counselor at the child’s school. The evaluation process may take up to eight weeks. Parents will be notified in writing upon completion of the process.

Continuation

Continued placement in the program shall be determined annually. Criteria shall include satisfactory performance in both regular education classes and the gifted education class. For grades K-5, satisfactory performance will be an “Excellent” or “Satisfactory” in the gifted resource class. If a student falls below the satisfactory performance in the gifted education class, a probation period will begin for a time of one complete nine weeks, during which time the defined deficiency must be remedied. The student will continue attending gifted classes during this probation period. If at the end of the probation period the student has remedied the deficiency, the student will continue in the program. If the deficiency has not been remedied, the student will be withdrawn from the program. If withdrawn, the student must meet required criteria, which may include additional assessments, to return to the program. Parents will be notified in writing when a student’s placement is in jeopardy and again at the time of withdrawal. A conference may be scheduled.