

Saddle River School District Gifted and Talented

New Jersey Gifted and Talented Definition:

New Jersey Department of Education: The regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1) define gifted and talented students 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 (New Jersey Department of Education).

The Saddle River School District will use the following to identify students for the Gifted and Talented program:

Nomination/Referral & Screening

Parents, teachers and students may make nominations/referrals to the Saddle River Gifted and Talented Review Committee at any time during the school year. The Review Committee will gather information that is relevant and supports the nomination. This information may include; standardized test scores, district assessments and current levels of performance and achievement. Upon receipt, the Review Committee will determine whether or not to proceed with additional assessments where multiple measures will be documented for potential eligibility.

Parent Consent

The Gifted and Talented Review Committee will review standardized test scores, district assessments, achievement levels and other relevant information before contacting parents on their decision to screen/not to screen. Parents/guardians whose child is selected will be required to fill out the parent consent form prior to screening.

Eligibility

Acceptance into the gifted and talented program will be on an annual review basis. Students, when evaluated and compared to their in-district peers, will be considered for participation based on their exceptional ability and high level of task commitment. In conjunction with district approved criteria, New Jersey's definition of gifted and talented will determine student eligibility within their peer group. In addition, it will allow for equitable assessment of students with special needs. Specific criterion may be waived or substituted for students with learning disabilities, cultural and/or diverse backgrounds (NAGC).

Transfer Students

Transfer students to the Saddle River School District may be considered for the gifted and talented program. All records and data available (including test scores administered within the past two calendar years) from the previous school will be considered to establish eligibility by the Gifted and Talented Review Committee. The district has the right to require additional assessments as necessary in order to

compare the student's performance to their district peer group. Transfer students may require an extended monitoring process of up to six weeks. Differentiated instruction within the classroom will occur for student Identification occurring after April 15.

Assessment

Multiple measures will be used to assess student eligibility for participation in the program. Assessments will be objective and subjective. A district approved gifted and talented student identification profile will be used to determine eligibility. The selection of multiple measures as recommended by the Review Committee may include:

- Standardized group achievement tests
- Standardized group aptitude test/intelligence test
- Gifted characteristic behavior scales
- Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) and district ELA and Math benchmark tests
- Naglieri Nonverbal Aptitude Test
- Observations
- Creativity
- Leadership
- Student work portfolio
- Observations/Interviews

Identification

All information gathered by the Review Committee, comprised of an administrator, regular education teacher, gifted and talented specialist and the child study team supervisor will determine if the student meets the district qualifications defined by the committee and approved by the district.

Notification

Once the Review Committee has made its determination, a meeting will be held with the student's parents/guardians to discuss the results. Students will begin receiving gifted and talented services following written parent consent.

Withdrawal/Re-Entry

Student performance will be monitored throughout the year. A student may be withdrawn from the gifted and talented program if at any time the Gifted and Talented Review Committee, parent/guardian determines student performance is not appropriate, insufficient or in the best interest of the student and their needs. A student may re-enter the program as deemed educationally appropriate by the Review Committee.

Appeal Process

Parents/guardians may appeal the decision of the Gifted and Talented Review Committee in writing. Parents/guardians will provide information/documentation to support their appeal. The Review Committee will review the information to determine if additional assessments are necessary.

Parents/guardians will be notified of the Review Committee's final decision. If a student is not accepted into the program, parents/guardians may refer their child for identification one year from the appeal.

Grades K-5

Students identified to participate in the gifted and talented program will also receive enrichment class instruction provided by the enrichment specialist.

Differentiation is integrated into the regular classroom for identified K-2 students who demonstrate exceptional performance in grade level curriculum. The regular classroom teacher will provide appropriate instruction for those students who demonstrate high levels of ability in one or more of the content areas. These activities are established in the current grade level curriculum.

In second grade, additional individual/small group instruction will be provided by the enrichment specialist during the second and third trimester for students meeting eligibility criteria. As determined by the Review Committee, these additional services may occur within the class or in a small group pull-out setting. Students will be considered for participation as determined by the Review Committee.

In third, fourth and fifth grade, individual/small group instruction will be provided by the enrichment specialist for students (as determined by the Gifted and Talented Review Committee) meeting the appropriate eligibility criteria.

Annual Review

For students selected to participate in the gifted and talented program, an annual review will be conducted by the Gifted and Talented Committee and classroom teacher(s) to review student performance and services. The Review Committee will meet regularly to assess the identification procedure and modify as necessary.