

Gifted Program Information

Definition of Giftedness

According to the Arizona Revised Statutes, a "gifted pupil" is "a child of lawful school age, who due to superior intellect or advanced learning ability, or both, is not afforded an opportunity for otherwise attainable progress and development in regular classroom instruction and who needs gifted education services to achieve at levels commensurate with the child's intellect and ability." Arizona schools are required to provide gifted programs and services to identified gifted pupils that are "an integrated, differentiated learning experience during the regular school day." For more detailed information on Arizona statutes governing gifted education, visit the [Arizona Department of Education](#) website.

Identification Procedures

We administer the Cognitive Abilities Test to assess the verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning skills of students recommended for gifted testing. ELL students are screened in cooperation with an ELL teacher using the Ravens Advanced Progressive Matrices or other state approved nonverbal test. Students who score in the 97th percentile or above in any one area of reasoning qualify for gifted services. Students scoring in the 93rd-96th percentile who do not feel adequately challenged in their classes are encouraged to petition to receive services. Students are identified for testing based on:

- Enrollment in advanced math or advanced English
- Teacher/counselor recommendation
- Parent or student request

Gifted testing occurs at three regular intervals each year:

- October – freshman and new student testing
- November – make-up testing
- Spring semester – one or more small groups are tested as needed

Entering freshmen or transfer students who participated in a gifted program at their last school may submit recent qualifying test scores (within the past three years) for immediate review.

Gifted & Talented Program Services

The goal of the gifted program is to provide gifted students with a range of services to meet their unique curricular, social, and emotional needs.

Each of our high schools offers a wide variety of advanced and AP courses for college bound students, and we encourage all students who seek a rigorous curriculum to enroll in these classes. To ensure that our advanced and A.P. classes are meeting the needs of gifted students, we have adopted a "cluster grouping" model. Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, our gifted students will be "cluster grouped" into classes taught by teachers who have received training in gifted education. These teachers will design a classroom experience, including teaching methods, pacing, and content, that serves the learning needs of gifted students. Contact the gifted advisor on your campus to learn more about how cluster grouping will be implemented at your school.

Gifted services are coordinated on each campus by a gifted advisor who assists students in the following ways:

- Develops a four-year plan with each gifted student.
- Assists gifted students with scholarship and college planning.
- Serves as an advisor, mentor, and advocate for gifted students.
- Places gifted students into appropriate cluster groups.

Gifted students who need significant modifications to the regular school program may request an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) to facilitate the following:

- Acceleration through coursework
- Alternative coursework, such as concurrent enrollment in college classes
- Independent study
- Early graduation and early entrance to a university

A detailed scope and sequence of gifted services is available for review at each campus and at the district office.