

GIFTED AND TALENTED SERVICES

ELKO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Elementary Curriculum/Special Services

P.O. Box 1012

Elko, NV 89803

Program Handbook



"Building Intellectual Bridges"



**ELKO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented**

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**Elko County School District
Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented**

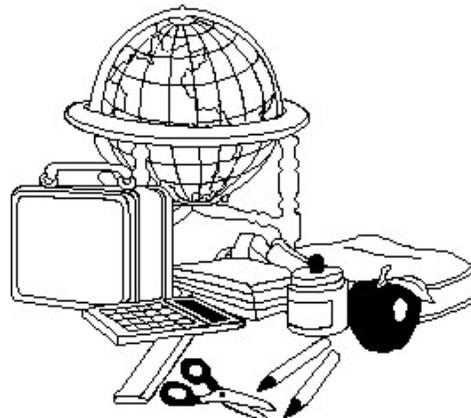
Nevada State Definition of Gifted and Talented

NAC 388.043 "Gifted and talented" defined. "Gifted and talented" means a person who possesses or demonstrates outstanding ability in one or more of the following:

1. General intelligence;
 2. Academic aptitude in a specific area;
 3. Creative thinking;
 4. Productive thinking;
 5. Leadership;
 6. The visual arts; or
 7. The performing arts.
- (Added to NAC by Bd. of Education, eff. 9-13-91)

District Philosophy on Gifted Education

The intent of the Elko County School District's Gifted and Talented Program is to identify children who exhibit above average intellectual ability, task commitment, and creativity. We strive to meet the specific learning needs of these children through a differentiated curriculum that supports, expands and enriches the goals of a standards based education.



**Elko County School District
Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented**

Mission

The mission of the ECSD Gifted and Talented Program is to empower academically talented students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to becoming life long learners. A continuum of services provides instruction that will include 21st century skills with a focus on STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math challenges. Students will be inspired to think critically, reason logically, and use problem solving skills to contribute to a global society.

Goals for 2019-2020

Goal One: A range of educational learning opportunities and accommodations will be provided in core curricular areas aligned with the ECSD curriculum that challenges gifted students in their specific areas of ability.

- **Objective 1** – The Gifted and Talented Program is a collaborative process. Gifted education teachers work in partnerships with administrators, classroom teachers, guidance counselors, school psychologists, and parents.
- **Objective 2** – A continuum of programming services including differentiation, pull-out instruction, and a focus on STEM-based learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.)

Goal Two: The Gifted and Talented Program teachers will collaborate with the classroom teachers to provide students with differentiated curricular opportunities and learning environments that foster creativity, high-level thinking, and problem-solving activities.

- **Objective 1** – A variety of support strategies will be offered which include modeling teaching methods in classrooms and working with teachers to design instructional units and activities to meet the needs of high-end learners.
- **Objective 2** – Professional development opportunities will be provided to help teachers develop an awareness of their special needs, and apply research-based strategies with an emphasis in STEM-based learning.



Elko County School District Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented

Overview of GT Services

The Elko County School District seeks to serve the needs of gifted and talented students in grades three through fifth in a variety of ways. Faculty in each building determines programming strategies and options with an emphasis on meeting the student's academic needs. The district offers a variety of programming options to meet the diverse educational needs of gifted students.

- Students in grades 3-5 are eligible for services.
- Students will be evaluated and identified according to the identification process outlined in this handbook.

Continuum of GT Services for Grades 3-5

Services will be designed to create a continuum that includes both direct and indirect services. Direct services are the sole responsibility of the gifted education teacher. Indirect services are prepared and delivered as a shared responsibility between the gifted education teacher and the general education teacher through consultation and collaborative activities.

- Services may include enrichment, grade and/or subject acceleration, differentiated lessons by content, process or product; academic competitions, mentorships, independent study, and research projects.
- Services may be provided through flexible instructional arrangements, to include small group instruction within the general education classroom or pull-out instruction.
- Programming will reflect individual student need and engage students with rigorous content that aligns with the scope and sequence of the general education curriculum.
- Programming will be designed to engage students in processing information in more challenging ways, and in creating products that require content knowledge and higher level thinking skills.

Secondary Enrichment Services for Grades 6-12

- Advanced Placement Classes
- Independent study opportunities
- Grade and/or subject acceleration
- Academic competitions
- Special interest clubs; activities and programs
- Dual credit college classes
- Advanced Placement classes



**Elko County School District
Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented**

Characteristics of Gifted Children

The following characteristics are common but not universal:

- Shows superior abilities to reason, generalize or problem solve.
- Shows persistent intellectual curiosity.
- Has a wide range of interests; develops one or more interests to considerable depth.
- Produces superior written work or has a large vocabulary.
- Reads avidly.
- Learns quickly and retains what is learned.
- Grasps mathematical or scientific concepts readily.
- Shows creative ability or imaginative expression in the arts.
- Sustains concentration for lengthy periods on topics or activities of interest.
- Sets high standards for self.
- Shows initiative, originality, or flexibility in thinking; considers problems from a number of viewpoints.
- Observes keenly and is responsive to new ideas.
- Shows social poise or an ability to communicate with adults in a mature way.
- Enjoys intellectual challenge; shows an alert and subtle sense of humor.

These characteristics can lead to conflicts in the regular classroom, as the gifted child may:

- Get bored with routine tasks.
- Resist changing away from interesting topics or activities.
- Be overly critical of self and others, impatient with failure, perfectionist.
- Disagree vocally with others, argue with teachers.
- Make jokes or puns at times adults consider inappropriate.
- Be so emotionally sensitive and empathetic that adults consider it over-reaction, may get angry, or cry when things go wrong or seem unfair.
- Ignore details, turn in messy work.
- Reject authority; be non-conforming, stubborn.
- Dominate or withdraw in cooperative learning situations.
- Be highly sensitive to environmental stimuli such as lights or noises.



**Elko County School District
Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented**

The Roles/Responsibilities of the GT Specialist

- Planning: Assist with developing and implementing a plan for the school to provide a continuum of services for gifted and talented students
- GT Identification: Identify students appropriate for gifted and talented services using district guidelines and maintaining records.
- Testing: Test students for eligibility and complete all required paperwork.
- Staff Consultant: Provide resources and opportunities for enriching the classroom experience for gifted and talented students. Provide ideas, strategies, feedback and support as teachers attempt new instructional strategies and learn how to differentiate for high ability students.
- Staff Developer: Provide group or individual staff development/modeling on differentiation strategies such as curriculum compacting, STEM-based learning, etc. and on the affective needs and characteristics of gifted children.
- Accelerated Learning Consultant: Help to assess and place high achieving students in appropriate accelerated learning opportunities, both within and outside of their home school such as subject and grade acceleration.
- Student Support: Provide/find appropriate opportunities to meet the affective and academic needs of gifted children, provide/support peer group opportunities, ensure appropriate placement within the school/district, facilitate appropriate services from school staff, and facilitate appropriate challenges within the classroom.
- Parent Support: Provide parents with information regarding student strengths and progress as well as resources they can access for supplemental interventions.
- Community Involvement: Host Parent Nights to showcase students' work. Host annual stakeholders meeting to inform parents of yearly objectives.



Elko County School District Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented

Student Referral and Assessment Process

REFERRALS:

Students may be referred for GT by teachers, parents or self referral. Students may be referred in the fall and spring of each school year. Eligibility determinations will be made twice a year in the fall and spring. Students transferring into the district with GT eligibility may be referred at any time.

1. The referring person completes:
 - GT Referral Form and obtains the principal's signature
2. The regular classroom teacher sends home to parent/guardian:
 - Parental Authorization for Evaluation
3. The parent or guardian must provide written consent before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted. Therefore, the parent will:
 - Sign the Parental Authorization for Evaluation
 - Return completed forms to the classroom teacher
4. The classroom teacher returns the completed forms to the GT teacher.

ASSESSMENT:

Data collected through objective assessments will be utilized to determine eligibility for GT services. Assessment tools may include, but are not limited to the following: academic achievement and cognitive tests.

1. The GT teacher will complete the following when all forms referral and authorization forms are completed:
 - Administer the *Otis Lennon School Abilities Test* to all referred students
 - Record student information on the Eligibility Determination Form
2. When additional cognitive ability testing is warranted the *Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-IV)* will be administered by a school psychologist.
3. When all testing has been completed the GT Specialist will evaluate each student according to the established criteria and will select those students for whom gifted services are the most appropriate educational option.

GT TRANSFER STUDENTS:

1. Individuals moving into the school district as a new student must also be referred using our district referral forms. Every effort will be made to utilize existing data to reduce the need for additional testing, however, additional testing may be required if the evaluation data is not similar to our district requirements.
2. Outside evaluation reports must be attached to the referral and will be reviewed by the GT Eligibility Committee for possible eligibility in our school district program.



**Elko County School District
Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented**

Eligibility Committee

Eligibility of Student Information:

- Test results will be compiled for each student and reviewed by the GT Specialist in order to determine a student's eligibility for GT services.

Informing the Parents:

- Parents will receive written notice of the results of the eligibility process from Special Services. For qualifying students, a *Permission for Participation* will be sent to the parent/guardian by the GT teacher.
- Parents may contact the GT teacher if they would like to request a conference to discuss the assessment results.

Student Records

- The records of identified G/T students participating in the program shall include:
 - Records of all testing
 - A Referral for a Gifted and Talented Evaluation form
 - Parental Authorization for Evaluation for Gifted and Talented Services
 - A Permission to Participate Form from Parents



**Elko County School District
Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented**

Resources

National Association for Gifted Children: **<http://www.nagc.org>**

Nevada Gifted and Talented Association: **<http://www.nevadagt.org/home.htm>**

Hoagies' Gifted Education Page: **<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/>**

Davidson Institute for Talent Development: **<http://www.ditd.org/>**

Davidson Academy: **http://www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/?NavID=2_0**

SENG (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted): **<http://www.sengifted.org/>**



Elko County School District Educational Program for the Gifted and Talented

STEM-BASED Websites:

- [Code.org](#): No one is too young (or old) to code. Learn how to build an iPhone game, write your first computer program, draw in JavaScript and much more.
- [Engineering, Go for It! \(eGFI\)](#): Discover the nuts and bolts of engineering. This website contains advice on careers, entertaining info on all kinds of fields and links to the eGFI magazine.
- [EPA Students](#): Searching for news on the environment, homework resources, info. on contests or ideas for an environment-based school project? Check out this website run by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- [Exploratorium](#): The website of the San Francisco-based Exploratorium is jam-packed with interactive activities, videos, apps, links and more.
- [Extreme Science](#): Extremely interesting. Here you'll find wild and weird facts about nature, resources for science projects and info on all kinds of world records.
- [How Stuff Works](#): Hundreds upon thousands of articles that explain the wonders of science (and almost everything else on the planet).
- [Museum of Science + Industry Chicago Online Science](#): Apps and activities and videos, oh my! Play games, watch baby chicks hatching, create virtual chemical reactions or use forensic science to analyze different types of candy.
- [NASA Education for Students](#): Career information, image galleries, NASA Television, features and articles ... whatever you'd like to know about aerospace, you're sure to find it here.
- [NASA Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy \(SEMAA\)](#): SEMAA was developed to increase the participation of historically underserved K-12 youth in STEM fields. School activities and summer sessions are held throughout the nation.
- [NOVA](#): The website for PBS's popular science show is overflowing with videos and articles. Explore the wonders of evolution, nature, physics, math—practically any STEM subject that rings your bell.
- [Science Buddies](#): Get stuck on science. This website has over 1,000 ideas for science fair projects, project guides, project kits and detailed profiles of STEM careers.
- [Science Channel](#): Question everything. Along with a rundown on the Science Channel's TV programs, this website has plenty of videos, quizzes, games and the latest science news.
- [STEM-Works](#): In addition to articles and job information, STEM-Works has stocked their site with interesting [activities](#). Test your skills in the reptile quiz. Rescue an athlete in the Bionic Games. Or, simply follow the path of great whites with the Global Shark Tracker.
- [TechRocket](#): A year-round online learning destination for kids and teens. Use the promo code "MIDSFREE" to get a free first month!
- [Tynker](#): A computing platform that allows children to develop programming skills through fun, creative courses. Join the millions of kids from around the country learning to code with Tynker!

Elko County School District
Elementary Curriculum/Special Services
Elko County School District
Gifted and Talented Services
P.O. Box 1012
Elko, Nevada 89803

Referral Form for Gifted and Talented Evaluation

Student Name: _____ **Grade Level:** _____

School of Attendance: _____ **Classroom Teacher:** _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent Names: _____

Please *include 2 copies* of this student's MAPS progress report. We will use their percentile ranking from Math, Reading and Language. We typically see students that have scores with the 85% Percentile or Higher score well on our tests. Students with scores below the 70% Percentile Rank should not be referred, unless other tests (STAR, SBAC, etc.) can validate that student meets a higher Percentile Ranking than that shown on their MAPS exams.

Referring Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal Signature: _____

Sarah Bitton
GT Specialist
775-738-1844
sbitton@ecsdnv.net

Sarah Arendt
GT Specialist
775-738-4711
sarendt@ecsdnv.net

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P.O. Box 1012
Elko, NV 89803**

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR EVALUATION FOR
GIFTED AND TALENTED SERVICES**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child _____ has been referred for possible Gifted and Talented (GT) services through the Elko County School District.

Eligibility for services is determined by using multiple criteria. The assessment process includes achievement testing and a measure of the student's cognitive abilities that relates to their ability to learn in school. A multidisciplinary team will review collected test data to determine eligibility for services.

Parental or guardian approval for the testing must be obtained on this form before the evaluation may be conducted. If you have any questions concerning the proposed eligibility testing process or about GT services please contact the teacher of the Gifted and Talented program at your child's school.

Sarah Bitton
GT Specialist
775-738-1844
sbitton@ecsdnv.net

Sarah Arendt
GT Specialist
775-738-4711
sarendt@ecsdnv.net

I do not want my child evaluated for Gifted and Talented services through the Elko County School District.

Permission is granted to evaluate my child for **possible** Gifted and Talented services through the Elko County School District.

School

Date

Child's Name

Parent or Guardian Signature

Elko County School District
Elementary Curriculum/Special Services
P.O. Box 1012
Elko, NV 89803
Telephone: (775) 753-8646

Parent Notification of Eligibility and Permission for Participation

Child's Name

School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son/daughter has been identified for the district's Gifted and Talented Services. These services may include one or more of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Differentiated curriculum in the regular classroom provided by the classroom teacher.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-time grouping of GT students for advanced or enriched curriculum during the school day.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pull out enrichment activities designed for gifted and talented students.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Subject acceleration referral
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grade acceleration referral
<input type="checkbox"/>	Independent study projects
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curriculum compacting in a specific subject area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student Portfolios with skills inventory
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

To give permission for your son/daughter to receive Gifted and Talented services, please sign and return this letter to your child's school. If you would like to schedule an appointment to discuss these services with the Gifted and Talented teacher at your school, please contact _____ at this number _____.

Sincerely,

Keith Walz
Director of Special Services

I give permission for my son/daughter to receive Gifted and Talented services

I do not want my son/daughter to receive Gifted and Talented services at this time

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Form Distribution: 1. GT folder 2. Cumulative Record Folder 3. Parent Copy