

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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1. **PURPOSE**

To establish a policy and program for gifted and talented students that adheres to state and national guidelines.

2. **Definition of Gifted and Talented Students**

A “gifted and talented student” is a student who is identified by professionally qualified individuals as:

- Having outstanding talent and performing, or showing the potential for performing, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with other students of a similar age, experience, or environment;
- Exhibiting high performance capability in intellectual, creative, or artistic areas;
- Possessing an unusual leadership capacity; or
- Excelling in specific academic fields.

3. **REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The Somerset County Public School System has established procedures for identifying students who are gifted and talented.

- (1) It is a process where multiple criteria are evaluated by a designated school-based team, using a variety of assessment sources as described in the Gifted and Talented Handbook of Somerset County.
 - (2) A single criterion may not be used to either include or exclude a student from the program
 - (3) All parents/guardians have the right to appeal a decision of the GT committee as outlined in the Gifted and Talented Handbook of Somerset County.
 - (4) Identification is an ongoing process.
- B.** The school system will develop programs which will
- (1) Reflect modification of content (what is taught and when it is taught - sequence and pacing);
 - (2) Reflect modification of instructional strategies (how it is taught); or
 - (3) Reflect modification of setting (the environment in which learning occurs).
- C.** Each school will have a Gifted and Talented Committee (chaired by the principal) which will function as described in the Gifted and Talented Handbook for Somerset County.
- D.** There will be a county level Gifted and Talented Committee chaired by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator which will function as described in the Gifted and Talented Handbook for Somerset County.
- E.** A County level Gifted & Talented Advisory Council will be established consisting of educators, community members, parents, students and other interested individuals.
- F.** Somerset County Public Schools will provide staff development which will include the following topics:
- (1) Identification of gifted and talented students.
 - (2) Characteristics of gifted and talented students.
 - (3) Differentiation of curriculum
 - (4) Effective Techniques of Instruction
 - (5) Program Development for Gifted and Talented students
 - (6) Alternate and innovative ways to assist gifted and talented students.
- G.** Somerset County Public Schools will encourage gifted and talented instruction in a way that will benefit the larger student body by providing a continuum of appropriately differentiated academic programs and services in grades Pre K – 12.
- H.** Primary Talent Development curriculum will be taught to all students in pre-kindergarten through second grade. A cumulative portfolio of the student's performance in this curriculum will be maintained by the classroom teacher and become part of the identification process during the spring of second grade.
- I.** The Somerset County Gifted and Talented Handbook shall be reviewed annually and revised as deemed necessary by the County GT Committee.