



Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Copy of Programs for Gifted Students
Number	114
Status	
Adopted	November 23, 1992
Last Revised	February 17, 2015

~~Old Policy~~

~~I. Purpose~~

~~A. The policy of the New Hope Solebury School District is to adhere to and implement faithfully the requirements of Chapter 16 of the regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, as they exist on the date of the adoption of this policy and as they may be hereafter revised or amended for all resident school aged children who are mentally gifted or who are thought to be mentally gifted.~~

New/revised policy:

I. Authority

- a. It shall be the Policy of the District to develop the special abilities of each student by providing gifted education programs designed to meet the individual educational needs of each student.
- b. The District shall provide appropriate GIEPs for each student identified as a Gifted Student, as defined in this policy, in accordance with the mandate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

II. Definitions

- a. For the purposes of this policy "Gifted Student" shall mean either (a) a student of school age with an Intelligence Quotient ("IQ") of 130 or higher who meets established multiple criteria indicating gifted ability or (b) a student of school age with an IQ of 129 or less, when other educational criteria strongly indicating gifted ability are present.
- b. For the purposes of this policy "GIEP" shall mean a Gifted Individualized Education Plan.
- c. For the purposes of this policy "GMDT" shall mean a Gifted Multidisciplinary Team

III. Delegation of Responsibility

- a. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, and the Director of Student Services shall develop procedures for the identification of Gifted Students and shall implement programs designed to meet the individual needs of each Gifted Student.

IV. Gifted Education Plan

- a. The District shall develop and implement a Gifted Education Plan every six (6) years, as required by law and regulations.
- b. Prior to approval by the Board, the Gifted Education Plan shall be made available for public inspection and comment in the District's administrative office, and on the District's website, for a minimum of twenty eight (28) days.
- c. The Gifted Education Plan shall reflect the following:
 - i. The District's process for identifying gifted children in need of specially designed instruction.
 - ii. The gifted special education programs offered by the District.
 - iii. Reports of gifted students, personnel and program elements, and costs, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- d. The District may enter into a cooperative agreement with other educational agencies to develop a Gifted Education Plan, and to develop gifted education services and programs in accordance with the guidelines outlined below.

V. Guidelines. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish procedures to ensure fidelity when applying applicable law as established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding gifted education.

a. Identification and Evaluation. The District shall develop and implement:

1. A system to locate and identify all students within the District who are thought to be gifted and in need of specially designed instruction.
 - a. The District shall make the Permission to Evaluate Gifted Student Form readily available to parents / guardians.
 - b. If an oral request is made by a parent or guardian to a District administrator or professional employee for a Permission to Evaluate Gifted Student Form, the parent or guardian shall be provided with the Permission to Evaluate Gifted Student Form within ten (10) days of that request.
2. Procedures to permit teachers to refer a student, or allow a parent or guardian to request in writing that a student undergo a multidisciplinary gifted evaluation to determine if the student is gifted.
 - a. The necessary forms to submit these requests shall also be developed and made readily available to teachers and parents / guardians.
3. Procedures to create a GMDT to determine if a school aged student meets the definition of a Gifted Student and is therefore eligible to receive gifted services.
4. Screening and evaluation processes that meet state requirements to determine a student's educational needs.
 - a. Prior to the District conducting an initial gifted multidisciplinary evaluation or re-evaluation of any student, the District shall provide student's parent or guardian with a

written notice proposing such an evaluation and shall provide the student's parent or guardian with the Permission to Evaluate Gifted Student Form.

- b. The universal screening assessment provides a nonverbal, culturally neutral assessment of general ability that is ideal for use with a diverse student population. IQ scores become stable around the age of 6 and the stability of IQ increases as students get older. Therefore, the screener will be administered annually in second grade. Parents may request to have their child evaluated prior to second grade.

5. A GIEP developed, and subsequently modified, for each student identified as gifted and in need of specially designed instruction based on the student's unique needs and the written report of the student's GMDT.

6. Gifted education programs for each identified Gifted Student, based on the unique needs of the student, and not solely on the student's classification.

- a. These programs shall include the opportunity for each Gifted Student to participate in acceleration and/or enrichment programs, and to receive services appropriate to each student's intellectual and academic abilities and strengths.

7. Safeguards for the due process rights of gifted students.

- b. For high school students who choose not to take gifted support classes, the GMDT will reconvene to complete a review of data. A NORA will be issued indicating that the student will continue to be eligible for gifted services, but not in need of specially designed instruction and a GIEP will not be written. At any time the student may choose to take gifted classes. When this occurs the GMDT team will reconvene, a review of data will be completed, and a NORA issued indicating that the student is in need of a GIEP.

VI. Awareness Activities

- a. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall annually conduct awareness activities to inform parents/guardians of the District's gifted education program.

b. These awareness activities may include:

1. Providing written notice of the District's gifted education program through the Student Handbook and on the District's website.
2. Notice in the local newspaper(s).
3. Distributing literature designed to inform parents of newly-enrolled students of the District's Gifted Services.
4. Hosting meetings.

VII. Caseloads / Class Size

- a. The Board directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to annually assess the District's delivery of gifted services and programs in order to:

1. Ensure the ability of assigned staff to provide the services required in each identified student's GIEP.
2. Address the educational placements for gifted students within the District.

3. Limit the total number of gifted students that can be on an individual teacher of the gifted's caseload to a maximum allowed under PDE guidelines.
 4. Limit the total number of gifted students that can be on an individual teacher of the gifted's class roster to a maximum allowed per PDE guidelines.
- b. Notwithstanding the above, the District shall have the right to make a written request to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education to waive the applicable caseload and class size maximums in extenuating circumstances.

VIII. Notification to Teachers of the Gifted

- a. Each teacher of a gifted student shall be given notification of their responsibilities to each of their identified gifted students, as provided in the student's GIEP.

IX. Confidentiality of Student Records

- a. All personally identifiable information regarding a gifted student shall be treated as confidential and disclosed only as permitted by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and any other state or federal law.

- X. The District shall provide all required notices and information to parents/guardians of gifted students, document all consents and responses of parents/guardians to such notices, and adhere to all established timelines.

Last Modified by Steven Yanni on April 24, 2018