



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

Gifted & Talented Education

Frequently Asked Questions

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Gifted & Talented Education in Arkansas This fact sheet is intended to provide information about the services available to gifted and talented students in Arkansas.

Requirement to Provide Services to Gifted & Talented Students (Act 445 of 1983)

What services are available for gifted students in Arkansas?

All public school districts in Arkansas must provide a program for gifted and talented students.

How do I go about referring my child for gifted and talented services or to find more information?

Contact the Gifted and Talented Coordinator at your local school district to refer your child for services. Contact information for the district GT Coordinator should be available on the local school district website.

What areas of giftedness are served?

Those students with high potential in the areas of intelligence, task commitment, and creativity should receive gifted and talented services.

Identification

How are students identified as gifted?

Each school district determines multiple criteria to be used in the identification process based on state guidelines for identifying gifted and talented students for services. Identification should be a non-discriminatory process based on observations, assessments, interviews, biographical data, and student products.

If a student moves from one school district in the state to another does the student continue to receive services?

Each school district determines whether it will continue to provide services to students who have been receiving services in other districts in the state with the exception of military dependents.

If a student moves from Arkansas to another state does the student continue to receive services?

Each state has its own policies about services to gifted students. If you have a child who is receiving services in Arkansas, please check with the state where you are moving to see what its policies are.

Teacher Training

Are teachers of identified gifted students required to have special training?

Teachers in Arkansas who provide direct services to identified gifted students in homogenous groups are required to have an additional licensure endorsement in gifted education.

What about other teachers?

Professional development about gifted and talented education is required for all staff in Arkansas schools.

Program Options

What services do students receive?

All students receive weekly enrichment lessons beginning when they enter kindergarten as a form of long-term identification until formal program placement occurs. Once formal identification occurs, districts have several options or ways to serve students, but an identified student has to receive a minimum of 150 minutes of service each week. Contact the GT Coordinator in your local school district for information about the program options available in the district.

Do GT services end when a child finishes elementary school?

Services to identified students are offered until the student graduates, leaves the district, or exits the program. Many secondary students' academic needs are served in Advanced Placement or Pre-Advanced Placement classes while their affective needs are served by a licensed GT teacher.

What about acceleration?

Acceleration for a grade level or in a subject area is one option that a district may use to serve a student, but it is one of many options available. Contact your local district about its acceleration policy.

Curriculum

What happens in GT classes?

The curriculum for GT students extends or replaces the regular classroom curriculum and should have different content, process, or product. Each district has a scope and sequence of skills, and the curriculum used develops the identified skills which typically stress creativity and higher level thinking.

Accountability

Are districts in Arkansas accountable for the services provided to gifted and talented students?

All districts complete annual reports about their gifted and talented programs for review by the Office of Gifted and Talented. The Office of Gifted and Talented also conducts on-site technical assistance visits to review gifted and talented programs and make recommendations to improve services.

Resources

Advocacy: Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE) <http://arkansasgt.weebly.com>

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) <http://www.nagc.org>

Extra-curricular Activities: Arkansas DestiNation Imagination <http://www.arkansasdi.org>

Arkansas Governor's Quiz Bowl Association (AGQBA) <http://www.arquizbowl.org>

Arkansas Science Fair <http://uca.edu/cnsm/ar-science-fair/>

Creativity in Arkansas (CIA) <http://www.arkansasom.org>

History Day in Arkansas <http://ar.nhd.org/>