

Pittsgrove Township School District

**Gifted and Talented Program
K – 12**

2019 – 2020

Approved by Board of Education: August 15, 2019

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Program Definition and New Jersey Administrative Code

The Pittsgrove Township School District's Gifted and Talented program is designed to meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1. The program goal is to ensure that the educational needs of all students are met and that students are provided with opportunities to excel and explore in areas of strength and interest.

Pittsgrove Township's Gifted and Talented Program adheres to the following definition developed by the NJ State Board of Education:

Those students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability, in one or more content areas, when compared to their chronological peers in the local district and who require modification of their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities. ([N.J.A.C. 6A: 8, Standards and Assessment for Student Achievement](#))

Selection for Pittsgrove Township's Gifted and Talented Program is also determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 8, Standards and Assessment for Student Achievement:

District boards of education shall make provisions for an ongoing K-12 identification process for gifted and talented students that includes multiple measures, including but not limited to, achievement test scores, grades, student performance or products, intelligence testing, parent, student and/or teacher recommendation, and other appropriate measures.

Program Goals

1. To develop human potential more fully by providing learning experiences for children who demonstrate a high-performance capability in academic and/or whole talent areas.
2. To stimulate and promote the abilities and talents of children by providing enrichment opportunities.

Program Structure

Gifted and Talented Program for Elementary School: Grades K – 4

At the elementary level, the program model is grounded in the use of **differentiated instruction** to provide opportunities for enrichment during the daily classroom instruction.

1. Students in grades 2-4 are identified for Gifted and Talented based upon their math and literacy performance. Multiple measures are used to determine eligibility.
2. Based on identification criteria, students in grades 2-4 will receive a Gifted and Talented Program that may include but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Differentiated instruction in daily classroom lessons.
 - b. Access to learning centers featuring challenging activities at or above the student's current grade level.
 - c. Access to higher-level reading books.
 - d. Placement in accelerated math class (Grade 4).
 - e. Placement in a Gifted and Talented WIN enrichment (WIN meets four times per week).

Acceleration for Middle School: Grades 5 – 8

At the middle school level, the Gifted and Talented Program places students in Mathematics and Language Arts courses based on ability and demonstrated performance. Courses include the following: Accelerated Language Arts in grades 5-8, Accelerated Mathematics in grades 5-7, and middle school Algebra I in grade 8.

Honors and Advanced Placement for High School: Grades 9 - 12

Qualified students in grades 9-12 may take a variety of Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Courses and entrance criteria are located in the A.P. Schalick High School Program of Studies.

Identification of Students

In order to identify students who demonstrate exceptional ability, along with students who demonstrate the potential for exceptional abilities and talents, the following criteria have been established for the Pittsgrove Township Gifted and Talented Program.

The criteria below will be used in the beginning of the current school year (in the Fall) to determine eligibility/placement for students in grades 2-4. For students entering grades 5-8, the criteria will be used at the end of the current school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year. In addition, the teacher recommendation will be conducted by the current year's teacher for placement in the subsequent school year/grade level.

When there are multiple scores included in a single criterion/category, those scores will be averaged together and then weighted by the category percentage. For example, NWEA MAP scores encompass Reading and Language Usage. Scores from both Reading and Language Usage will be averaged and then weighted to determine the student's score for that criterion/category.

Elementary School: Grade 2

1. Skills on Report Card
2. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores from Fall test
3. Guided Reading Level (ELA)
4. Teacher Recommendation

Elementary School: Grade 3

1. Reading & Math Benchmark Assessments
2. Guided Reading Level (for ELA)
3. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores from Fall test
4. Teacher Recommendation

Elementary School: Grade 4

1. Final Grades in ELA and Mathematics
2. Reading Level (for ELA) and Comprehensive Assessment (for Math)
3. NJSLA scores from Spring test
4. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores from Fall test
5. Teacher Recommendation

Middle School: Grades 5 - 8

1. Final Grades in ELA and Mathematics
2. NJSLA scores
3. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores from Spring test
4. Teacher Recommendation

Identification Criteria Charts

The criteria outlined in the following charts are used as a basis from which placement decisions are made. Eligibility for students in grades 2-4 will be determined in the beginning of the school year (in the Fall). For students in grades 5-8, the criteria will be used at the end of the school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year. Students with the highest combined scores from the criteria outlined below will be eligible for possible placement into the Pittsgrove Township Gifted and Talented Program.

Grade 2: Students must meet the criteria below to be eligible for the Gifted and Talented Program.

Grades 3-8: The following criteria charts and corresponding percentages of each category are used to rank the potential candidates and determine eligibility for placement into the Gifted and Talented and Accelerated Programs. Scores from each category will be added together to determine an overall score for placement. Students with the highest total scores will be offered the opportunity to participate.

Grade 2: Gifted and Talented Program				
Subject	Skills on Report Card	NWEA MAP Scores	Guided Reading Level	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	3 or 4	189	J	Yes
Math	3 or 4	192		Yes

Skills on Report Card

The report card encompasses all skills taught throughout the school year. Students' skill levels are categorized by the following: 4, 3, 2, 1 levels based upon their ability. All skills must be at the 3 or 4 level by the end of the 1st grade year.

Guided Reading Level

Whenever a student enters a new grade, he/she is assessed and assigned a guided reading level. The level is based upon word knowledge, reading comprehension, and fluency. Guided reading levels range from A to Z with A representing the lowest level to Z—the highest level.

Grade 3: Gifted and Talented Program				
Subject	1st Trimester Grades	Reading Levels	NWEA MAP Scores	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	30%	30%	30%	10%
Math	45%		45%	10%

Trimester Grades

Students’ first trimester grades on their report cards will be used as a measure for eligibility. Their first trimester grades in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics must be As or Bs.

Grade 4: Gifted and Talented Program					
Subject	Final Grades	Reading Levels/ Comprehensive Assessment	NJSLA Scores	NWEA MAP Scores	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	20%	20%	20%	30%	10%
Math	20%	20%	20%	30%	10%

Grades 5-8: Accelerated Language Arts & Mathematics				
Subject	Final Grades	NJSLA Scores	NWEA Spring MAP Scores	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	35%	20%	35%	10%
Math	35%	20%	35%	10%

Final Grades

Students’ final, end-of-year grades on their report cards will be used as a measure for eligibility. Students’ final grades in Language Arts/Mathematics must be As or Bs.

Comprehensive Assessment

The comprehensive assessment is similar to an end-of-year assessment. This will assess students' skills and knowledge on material learned throughout the entire school year.

NJSLA Scores

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessment uses interactive questions to determine whether students have mastered the fundamentals as well as higher-order skills.

Students are assessed in English language arts/literacy and mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school. The assessments are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and require students to solve problems using mathematical reasoning and to be able to model mathematical principles. In English Language Arts (ELA), students are required to read multiple passages, answer text-dependent questions, and write in various modes: argumentative, explanatory, and narrative.

NWEA MAP Scores

The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) provides research-based assessments, including Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The MAP tests measure student progress in Reading, Language Usage, and Math. MAP scores indicate what a student knows, is ready to learn, and is projected to achieve.

Procedures for Identification and Admission

Identifying New Program Participants—Grades 2 - 8

1. Classroom teachers can recommend a student. The student's performance will be reviewed against the program criteria.
2. There will be a review of the program criteria at the end of each school year to identify students, independent of teacher recommendations.
3. Parents/guardians of students in grades 2-4 will be notified in the fall of the current school year. Parents/guardians of students in grades 5-8 will be notified during the summer if their son/daughter met the eligibility criteria and has been accepted into the Gifted and Talented Program. It is the parents' responsibility to accept/decline the opportunity to have their child placed and participate in the Gifted and Talented Program.

Recommendation for Program Placement—Grades 5 - 8

1. Placement for Accelerated classes at the Pittsgrove Township Middle School is based upon four criteria: a) Final grades in ELA and Mathematics, b) NJSLA scores, c) NWEA MAP scores from the spring test administration, and d) Teacher recommendation. These four criteria will be used at the end of the current school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year.
2. The process to determine eligibility and placement in the Accelerated courses will be conducted annually.
3. Students with the highest total scores are eligible to participate in the Gifted and Talented Program each year by meeting the aforementioned identification criteria.

Additional Characteristics of the Grades 2-8 Gifted & Talented Program

Placement Questions

1. Parents should contact their child's school should they have a question regarding their son's/daughter's eligibility for the program.
2. The student's profile and the Gifted and Talented Program criteria will be reviewed with the parent/guardian.

Grading

Elementary School: Grades 2 - 4

1. Students in grade 2 must maintain 3s and 4s on their report card each trimester to maintain program eligibility.
2. Students in grades 3-4 must maintain at least a B average or higher in their classes each trimester to maintain program eligibility.
3. Parents will receive progress reports outlining their child's progress.

Middle School: Grades 5 - 8

1. Students in the grades 5-8 Accelerated Language Arts and/or 5-8 Mathematics courses will receive grades for their performance.
2. Students in grades 5-8 must maintain at least a B average or higher in their Accelerated Language Arts and/or Mathematics classes each marking period to maintain program eligibility.

Removal from Program

Removal from Elementary and Middle School Programs

Students may be removed from the Gifted and Talented Program if they fail to meet the program criteria, their academic record indicates a decline in classroom performance, or if parents request that their child be removed.

Program Evaluation

The Gifted and Talented Program will be evaluated by district and school administrators each school year.

Please contact your child's school with any questions regarding the Pittsgrove Township School District's Gifted and Talented Program.

