

The Pennridge School District is committed to providing our students quality educational experiences that will encourage them to reach their fullest potential. The goal of the Gifted Education Program is to challenge, enrich, and support the students through differentiated instruction and curricular opportunities while addressing each student's strengths and needs.

### **Procedure for Referring Students Thought to be Gifted**

Parents and/or teachers may refer a child for screening if they feel the child may be in need of specialized instruction. Referral forms are available from the school guidance counselors.

Upon referral, the Pennridge School District uses a multi-step screening and evaluation process to identify students thought to be gifted. This process takes into account evidence of achievement, intellectual ability and aptitude, and the judgments of school personnel and others familiar with the capabilities and needs of the student.

Initially parents and teachers are asked to complete a "Checklist for Gifted Traits". This information, combined with the results of the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT), is used as the pre-screening data. Parents are then notified whether or not additional screening is recommended.

Additional information is gathered for those students that are continuing with the screening process. This information may include but is not limited to test data, the most recent report card, portfolio assessments, classroom observations, and/or curriculum based assessments. Upon review of the aforementioned multiple criteria, the guidance counselor uses the matrix to determine whether or not a Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation is recommended. Parents are notified of the recommendation.

The Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GMDE) is used to further determine if a child is mentally gifted and in need of specially designed instruction. A "Permission to Evaluate" form must be signed by parents prior to the beginning of the evaluation process. The school psychologist reviews the child's educational needs and strengths as shown by educational performance levels, assessment results, classroom observations, and parent information. In addition, the psychologist will conduct an individual assessment of the child's intellectual abilities and gifted traits.

The members of the Gifted Multidisciplinary Team (GMDT), a team of educational professionals and the parents, will review the Gifted Written Report (GWR). The GWR, written by the school psychologist, includes all of the information contributed by the team members as well as a recommendation regarding eligibility for gifted services and the need for specially designed instruction.

If a child is recognized as needing specially designed instruction, a Gifted Individualized Education Program (GIEP) will be written. The GIEP contains a statement of the child's present levels of educational performance, the child's strengths and needs, and annual

goals. These goals identify areas which go above and beyond the regular education program. The GIEP may also contain support services and specially designed instruction, based on the child's needs and abilities. The GIEP must be reviewed annually however it may be reviewed more often if requested by a GIEP team member.

Upon completion of writing the GIEP, a Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA), which identifies the educational program and placement of the child, is written. The district must have a NORA signed by the parents indicating their approval prior to the child's placement in a gifted program.