

Chapter 16



The Pennsylvania State Board of Education has defined the purpose of its regulations governing special education for gifted students (22 PA Code Chapter 16) as follows:

- a) This chapter specifies how the Commonwealth will meet its obligations to suspected and identified gifted students who require gifted education to reach their potential. It is the intent of the Board that gifted students are provided with quality gifted education services and programs.
- b) The Commonwealth, through the Dept. of Education, will provide general supervision of services and programs provided under this chapter.
- c) The Department will disseminate information about and promote the use of promising practices and innovative programs to meet the needs of gifted students.

- d) To provide services and programs efficiently, the Commonwealth will delegate operational responsibility to its school districts. Each school district shall, by directed service or through arrangement with other agencies, provide the following:
 - a. Services and programs planned, developed and operated for the identification and evaluation of each gifted student.
 - b. Gifted education for each gifted student which is based on the unique needs of the student, not solely on the student's classification.
 - c. Gifted education for gifted students which enables them to participate in acceleration or enrichment, or both, as appropriate, and to receive services according to their intellectual and academic abilities and needs.

For more information, see the FAQ section on the Curriculum or Special Education webpage at www.wssd.org



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A Parent's Guide to Gifted Education Services



The goal of WSSD's Gifted Education Services is to provide enriched learning experiences for gifted students that reflect individual differences, equal educational opportunity and desire for the optimal development of each child.

"It is not that I'm so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer."

— Albert Einstein

"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."

— Socrates



Gifted Education Services



The Power of Teamwork

At the GIEP meeting, the team, which includes the regular education teacher, the Gifted Education Coordinator, and the parents, will discuss the present education levels of the gifted student and agree on goals for developing areas of strength through enrichment and extensions.

Curriculum extensions allow students to go beyond concepts taught in the general education curriculum and challenge students to look at key concepts from a variety of perspectives. Extensions might include more advanced mathematics problems, science and technology applications, higher level vocabulary instruction or analysis of literature from a historical or philosophical perspective. These extensions may be part of classroom differentiation or part of additional learning experiences organized or directed by the Coordinator of Gifted Education.



Gifted students may have individualized independent or group learning contracts, projects, extension menus, and reading selections. Some opportunities will occur in the regular classroom through differentiation or leveling; other opportunities may occur in pullout or push-in sessions with a Gifted Education Coordinator.

Introduction to Gifted Services

WSSD education programs follow guidelines in meeting the requirements of the State Board's regulations set forth at 22 Pa. Code Chapter 16 - Special Education for Gifted Students. The district recognizes that gifted students are considered to be "children with exceptionalities" under the Public School Code of 1949 and in need of specially designed instruction.



This overview reflects Wallingford-Swarthmore's continuing commitment to providing educational services appropriate for mentally gifted students that are consistent with their individual needs, outstanding abilities and potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment. Services for gifted students fit into the array of well-established special learning programs and opportunities available for *all* students attending district schools. Gifted

services reflect a strategic combination of these special programs, as well as individually created opportunities for learning that are designed specifically to meet the needs of gifted students through the GIEP process.

The GIEP

A GIEP is a Gifted Individualized Education Plan. This is a document that outlines specialized services or opportunities that are offered to your child to maximize his individual performance as a result of his eligibility for gifted services. The document will list learning goals designed to offer appropriately challenging curriculum opportunities to develop your child's strengths.

Coordinator of Gifted Education

The Gifted Education Coordinator works with the GIEP team to design the appropriate services for each gifted student. The Gifted Education Coordinator works with the classroom teacher to monitor the appropriate implementation of these strategies within the general education classroom for students with GIEPS. The Coordinator for Gifted Learning will be the contact person for your child's GIEP.