

PORTAGE AREA SD

84 Mountain Ave

Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16) | 2022 - 2025

CHAPTER 16

Chapter 16 of the PA Code specifies how Pennsylvania will meet its obligations to suspected and identified gifted students who require gifted education to reach their potential. Gifted students are to be provided with quality gifted education services and programs. Requirements for Gifted Education Plans can be found in the Pennsylvania Code (22 Pa Code §16.32).

In accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 4.13(e) (relating to strategic plans) and 22 Pa. Code § 16.4, each school district shall develop and implement a gifted education plan every 6 years.

- a. The plan shall include the process for identifying children who are gifted and in need of specially designed instruction, as well as the gifted special education programs offered.
- b. The school districts shall make its gifted education plan available for public inspection and comment for a minimum of 28 days prior to approval of the plan by the school district's board of directors.
- c. Each school district shall provide, as the Department may require, reports of students, personnel and program elements, including the costs of the elements, which are relevant to the delivery of gifted education. (22 Pa. Code § 16.4)

1. Describe your district's public notice procedures conducted annually to inform the public of the gifted education services AND programs offered (newspaper, student handbooks, school website, etc.).

The Portage Area School District provides annually public notices to inform the public of the gifted education services and programs offered through the district. Notices and/or documents regarding available Gifted services and programs are posted on the district website, referenced in the student handbook under the Student Services and informational resources can be obtained, by contacting or visiting the building or special education offices.

2. Describe your district's process for locating students who are thought to be gifted and may need specially designed instruction.

Portage Area School District will have annual reviews for all 2nd grade students that analyze local and/or curriculum-based assessments to determine if a child is demonstrating a need for enrichment in the general education curriculum. Also, a parent or teacher who believes a student is exceling in the general education curriculum and may be in need of specially designed instruction can make a recommendation for a gifted screening and/or referral. The screening procedure may include a brief intelligent test, along with other academic assessments to obtain performance data. Also, teacher and parent input may be collected as additional data.

3. Describe your district's procedures for determining ELIGIBILITY (through MULTIPLE CRITERIA) and NEED (based on ACADEMIC STRENGTH) for potentially mentally gifted students (EVALUATION).

Any student who has received a gifted referral or who has met gifted screening criteria, will receive a multidisciplinary evaluation. Multidisciplinary evaluations are conducted by a team comprised of the student's parents, a certified school psychologist, persons familiar with the student's educational experience and performance, and one or more of the student's current teachers. After the initial evaluation is completed, a copy of the evaluation reports is presented to the parents no later than 60 calendar days after the LEA receives written parental consent for evaluation. When evaluating a student for potential giftedness, multiple factors are considered, in accordance with Chapter 16 regulations in the PA Code. The first factor considered is intellectual ability; if a student demonstrates Superior intellectual ability, earning a standard score of 130 or greater on a standardized intellectual ability assessment, additional factors are considered to determine their eligibility for giftedness. Reading/writing and mathematics achievement is considered, as measured through standardized testing and results of curriculum based assessment or course grades. Additional areas considered include acquisition and retention of information, creativity, leadership, artistic talent, and other factors that may be potentially masking giftedness, such as ADHD or other medical conditions. A student's current course performance and results of state standardized testing results (e.g., PSSA scores) are considered when determining whether the student evidences a need for enrichment services.

4. Describe the gifted programs* that are offered to provide opportunities for acceleration, enrichment, or both. *The word "programs" refers to the CONTINUUM OF SERVICES, not one particular option.

At the Portage Area School District, gifted programming is differentiated based on the needs of each gifted student. There are currently two gifted education teachers in the district. One teacher serves each school building. Gifted programming includes opportunities for acceleration, enrichment or both. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of gifted programming options available as a continuum of services offered to eligible students attending the Portage Area School District: • Grade or subject advancement • Independent study • Online courses • Opportunities for gifted students to work with their peers in a resource room • Incorporation of appropriate community-based educational experiences • Enrichment in content/interest areas • Internships and field experiences/job shadowing designed to meet performance level and career interests. • Dual Enrollment • Curriculum Compacting

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Date