



Bright vs Gifted

The Bright Child:

1. Knows the answer
2. Has good ideas
3. Is in the top group
4. Learns with ease
5. Understands ideas
6. Grasps the meaning
7. Enjoys school
8. Pleased in own learning
9. Good memorizer
10. Absorbs information
11. Complete assignments
12. Copies accurately
13. Works hard
14. Is interested
15. Is alert
16. Is a technician

The Gifted Learner

1. Asks the questions
2. Has wild, silly ideas
3. Is beyond the group
4. Already knows
5. Constructs
6. Draws inferences
7. Enjoys learning
8. Highly self-critical
9. Good guesser
10. Manipulates information
11. Initiates projects
12. Creates a new design
13. Plays around yet tests well
14. Is highly curious
15. Is keenly observant
16. Is an inventor

Adapted from Szabo, J. Challenge Magazine, 1989.

Gifted Defined

Gifted children thrive on challenge and innovation. They have special needs that must be met in order to help them cope with everyday life and to enable them to blossom to their highest potential. But even the experts have a variety of definitions for the term "gifted". What exactly does the term "gifted" mean? Some would say, "All children are gifted." It is true that all children are special, and all children have unique abilities and strengths. Giftedness does not mark a child in any tangible or visible way. It is not easy to pick out the gifted students in a classroom. A gifted child may not be the kind of student most people expect. He or she may not be a straight-A student. The gifted child is not always a hard worker and sometimes may not be very easy to be around.

Contact your child's school for further questions or the Benton County Schools Superintendent's Office at 662-224-6252

What are Privacy Rights?

In the intellectually gifted identification process, parents are notified and must give written permission before the assessment and the placement phase. Parents are notified in writing about their rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

As a parent you and your child are guaranteed certain rights with regard to the information in your child's record. This outline of your rights has been prepared for you. If you do not understand any part of this or if you would like more information, contact the Gifted Coordinator at 662-224-6252.

You have the right to:

1. Inspect and review your child's education records,
2. Request the amendment of your child's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights,
3. Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that the law and regulations authorize disclosure without consent,
4. File with the U.S. Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failure by the school district to comply with the requirements of the act, and
5. Obtain a copy of the school districts policy for the Federal Regulations.



Benton County


Explorers

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Benton County School District offers Intellectually Gifted Programs in 2nd-6th Grades at

Ashland Elementary
Hickory Flat Attendance Center

The mission of the Benton County School District's Gifted Program (Explorers) is to provide a challenging, qualitatively different educational experience directed to the unique needs of gifted students as well as our district mission to equip, empower, and educate our students for what lies ahead.



Gifted Child?

What is a Gifted Child?

An intellectually gifted child is one who is found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process.

How is a gifted student identified?

The Benton County Schools identification process will be conducted in accordance with Mississippi Department of Education gifted regulations. The identification process requires an annual "blanket" screening of students in one or more grade levels. Referrals will be solicited from multiple sources to include, but not limited to, screenings, and referrals from a teacher, administrator, counselor, parent, self, peer, or any other person having reason to believe the student may be gifted. Once a referral has been made the student moves to the identification stage.

The multi-factored identification process shall provide an equitable opportunity for the inclusion of students who are culturally diverse, under-achieving, disabled under IDEA guidelines, physically disabled, ADD/ADHD, as well as students who exhibit classroom behavior such as extreme shyness, short attention spans, disruptiveness, continual questioning, and anxiety.

During the identification stage students must satisfy the minimal criteria on at least two of the following before moving on to the assessment stage.

1. Score of 91st percentile or above on a group or individual measure of intelligence administered within the last 12 months.
2. Score in the superior range on a normed measure of creativity,
3. Score in the superior range on a normed measure of leadership, or
4. Score in the superior range on a published characteristic of gifted measure.

When a referral is complete with documentation of at least two of the referral criteria, the assessment phase begins. District personnel will begin the process of collecting at least three of the above criteria before moving forward. Once it has been determined and documented that the minimal referral criteria has been satisfied written parental permission is obtained to move forward. The student is administered an individual intelligence test by a licensed examiner. The examiner provides a signed and dated report of the test administration. A student must score at or above the 91st percentile composite/full scale or the 91st percentile on approved subtest in order to satisfy eligibility criteria for Benton County Schools Gifted Explorers Program. The Local Survey Committee meets to determine eligibility.

What is a Local Survey Committee?

A Local Survey Committee (SLC) is a group of qualified individuals that meets to review the information submitted during the referral, identification, assessment, and eligibility process. Decisions are documented and notification given to the appropriate individual(s). The LSC ensures that proper procedures are followed and written permission for testing is obtained on a Gifted Pupil Personal Data Sheet (GPDS) and that parents or guardians are informed of the Family Rights and Privacy Act. The LSC also meets to complete an annual reassessment process.

What is a Reassessment Process:

A committee from each school meets to reassess each gifted student's continuation in the gifted program. Should the committee recommend that the student be removed from the program due to lack of success, parents must be notified and given the opportunity to discuss the decision. Parents who are not in agreement will present their concerns, orally or in writing, to the principal of the school where their child is enrolled. If the matter is not resolved the parent should contact the gifted program coordinator. The parents will be extended an invitation to attend a Gifted Hearing Committee meeting. The decision of the Gifted Hearing Committee will be final.

Students may be considered for reinstatement into the gifted program after a removal or parent decision of removal on a case by case basis following district policy upon parent request.