



Shippensburg Area School District Special Education Department
317 North Morris Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-530-2791

Gifted FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about Gifted Services and Opportunities

How does the Shippensburg Area School District identify gifted students?

Parents or teachers may start the gifted identification process at any time by requesting a gifted screening based on student achievement scores, reading and math assessments, curriculum based measures, surveys, or other performance data. Parents can make this request in writing by emailing the k-8 Gifted Teacher (amanda.kirkpatrick@shipk12.pa.us).

The Shippensburg Area School District utilizes a 4-tiered gifted screening and identification process for students in grades 4 and 6. This process begins at Tier 1 with an analysis of already implemented diagnostic, standardized test scores. If the student meets the threshold requirements, the parent will be emailed information about the next steps and an opt out option if they would choose not to have their child screened. The student will then be evaluated in a small group using the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (Tier 2). Every second grader will be evaluated using the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test in late Feb/early March.

For more information on this assessment, please refer to [Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test® \(NNAT3\) FAQ](#). If the student meets the score requirements from the Ability Test the student will be evaluated by a school psychologist for individual screening (Tier 3). If the student meets the matrix criteria thresholds required, the parents will be sent a permission to evaluate form and the school psychologist will perform a psychological-education evaluation (Tier 4). The school psychologist will complete a psychological-educational evaluation and incorporate previous tiered results into a Gifted Written Report (GWR). Parents will be sent a copy of this report by the 60th day.

What will happen if my child is not eligible for gifted services?

Even students recommended for evaluation based on early screening criteria may not be formally identified once they complete the evaluation process. Extremely bright children who are not eligible for gifted services will have many opportunities for challenge, enrichment, and differentiation without requiring any special services. Communication between parents and teachers can support the decisions about appropriate differentiation within the regular education program to ensure student needs are met. All students who demonstrate the need for enrichment will be offered the opportunity to develop skills at a high level. Students will be screened again if they qualify to do so in grades 4 and 6. A student will be screened a maximum of twice in their educational career unless a parent requests additional screening.

What will happen if my child is identified as Gifted?

Once the GWR is issued to parents, the district has 30 calendar days to have the GIEP meeting for students who qualified. The invitation to participate in the GIEP meeting is sent to parents 10 days before the meeting. Parents will be asked to attend a GIEP meeting to develop a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP).

If my child is gifted, how will my child's program be different from other students?

Students who are identified as Gifted will have opportunities for enrichment during the school day. These times will occur with the Gifted Teacher and will be enrichment in all subject areas. The menu of options may include opportunities to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, research skills, collaborative learning and independent research and study skills.



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Where can parents get more information about Pennsylvania Chapter 16 and their rights?

[PA Department of Education Website \(Gifted\)](#)