

# Western Line School District Gifted Program: Sharp Shooters

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Western Line School District gifted program is to ensure that intellectually gifted children, as defined by the Mississippi Department of Education, are offered appropriate educational experiences that are qualitatively different from those available in the regular classroom in order to provide opportunities for them to realize their abilities and potential.

Western Line School District, in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education's regulations and standards for gifted education programs, is committed to identifying intellectually gifted students and providing a program of enrichment that addresses their unique talents, needs, and learning styles. Recognizing the intellectual, emotional, and social needs of gifted students; as well as their potential for creativity, higher-level thinking, independent learning, and leadership; the program addresses cognitive and affective needs with a curriculum that is qualitatively different from the regular classroom.

## MDE DEFINITION

The State of Mississippi defines “Intellectually Gifted Children” and “Gifted Education Programs” as follows:

“**Intellectually Gifted Children**” shall mean those children and youth who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process. shall mean those children and youth who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process. The needs of these students should be addressed based on the program options provided in the *Outcomes for Intellectually Gifted Education Programs Grades 2-8 in Mississippi*.

“**Gifted Education Programs**” (GEP) shall mean special programs of instruction for intellectually gifted children in grades 2-12, academically gifted children in grades 9-12, artistically gifted children in grades 2-12, and/or creatively gifted children in grades 2-12 in the public elementary and secondary schools of this state. Such programs shall be designed to meet the individual needs of gifted children and shall be in addition to and different from the regular program of instruction provided by the district.

Although the State of Mississippi recognizes permissive programming for academically gifted students in grades 9-12; artistically gifted children in grades 2-12; and creatively gifted children in grades 2-12, only intellectually gifted programs in grades 2-6 are mandated by law. At this time, the Western Line School District offers the program for intellectually gifted children in the mandated grades, 2-6.

The identification process consists of a combination of subjective and objective measures to determine eligibility for the gifted program and includes an equitable opportunity for the inclusion of students who are culturally diverse, underachieving, disabled under IDEA guidelines, physically handicapped, or ADD/ADHD.

All data collected as part of the identification process are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Access to this information is restricted to those personnel working directly with the identification process, working directly in the gifted education program, or that have a documented need to access. Parents have the right to view their children's records at any time.

### **TIME AND HOURS**

Western Line School District provides a program of enrichment for intellectually gifted students in second through sixth grade. Gifted classes are called "SharpShooters" and serve second through sixth at Riverside Elementary and O'Bannon Elementary Schools. Students spend one day per week in the gifted "pull-out" program and the rest of the week in their general education classrooms. Mississippi Department of Education Gifted regulations and State mandates require that intellectually gifted students in grades two through six be provided services by a teacher with a gifted endorsement for a minimum of 240 minutes per week.

### **RESOURCES FOR PARENTS OF GIFTED STUDENTS:**

10 Myths about Gifted Education  
Raising a Gifted Child  
(Contact Mrs. Kelly for copies)

### **TEACHER OF GIFTED EDUCATION**

#### **O'Bannon Elementary School**

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#### **Riverside Elementary School**

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