

# ***Rhea County Department of Education***

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## **Levensgood Educational Center**

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## **Gifted and Talented Education - GATE**

### **New Program for Rhea County Students**

Rhea County Schools will strive to ensure appropriate academic services are available to students who are academically gifted and talented. Students who are academically gifted and talented perform or have the capability to perform at higher academic levels compared to others of the same age.

Academically Gifted and Talented students require sufficient access to appropriate learning opportunities to realize their full potential. The Office of Special Education along with Rhea County Gifted & Talented Teacher will work in collaboration with school leaders, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders to ensure academically gifted and talented students are afforded opportunities to participate in differentiated classes that are designed to encourage academic achievement and growth.

- The Gifted & Talented classes in Rhea County Schools will be called Gifted and Talented Education and will be taught by a teacher with the certification of Gifted Education PK-12 and the title of Gifted & Talented Teacher (G&T Teacher).
- Students are considered for screening for GATE services using both qualitative and quantitative data, including district benchmarks and universal consideration tools.
- Because no two gifted children are alike it is important to collect information on both the child's performance and potential through a combination of objective (quantifiably measured) and subjective (personally observed) identification instruments in order to identify gifted and talented students.
- Rhea County schools will follow a systematic, multi-phased process for identifying gifted and talented students to find students who need services beyond the general education program: 1) Nomination or identification phase; 2) Screening or selection phase; 3)

Placement phase. In the nomination and screening phase, various identification tools will be used to eliminate bias.

- District wide testing consideration and administration to determine GATE service eligibility takes place in the Fall semester of each school year.
- Students will be identified for talent development in these schools using multiple measures. Students who participate in talent development will be considered for GATE screening during the Spring testing window of each school year.

## Gifted and Talented Curriculum

GATE classes provide opportunities for gifted and talented students to participate in classes designed specifically for academically gifted and talented learners. The curriculum is hands-on, interactive, and problem-based with a focus on developing students' critical and creative thinking abilities. Instruction is interdisciplinary and aligned with Tennessee content standards.

GATE classes meet weekly but alternate between schools every third week.

## Main Difference – Gifted vs Talented

The two terms gifted and talented are two adjectives that are used to describe individuals with great natural abilities. In the context of education, these two terms have specific meanings. Although both words are used to refer to students with one or more abilities developed to a level significantly ahead of their age and experience, **gifted specifically refer to the abilities in academic subjects such as science, maths, and language whereas talented refer to the abilities art, music, design, etc.**

# GIFTED VERSUS TALENTED

Gifted means  
having exceptional  
talent or natural  
ability

Gifted learners  
have outstanding  
abilities in one or  
more academic  
subjects

Students show  
aptitude for  
subjects like  
maths, science,  
history, geography

Talented means  
having a natural  
aptitude or skill for  
something

Talented learners  
have exceptional  
abilities in one or  
more practical  
subjects

Students show  
skills in areas like  
dance, music,  
arts, design,  
sports, etc.

Pediaa.com

For more information about gifted and talented children, visit the [National Association for Gifted Children](#) website.

## Questions?

If you have questions about the GATE program, please email Mrs. Kim Jones at [jonesk@rheacounty.org](mailto:jonesk@rheacounty.org).