

MCKEESPORT AREA SD

3590 O'Neil Boulevard

Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16) | 2023 - 2026

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 Annual Public Notice is posted on the district's website, in the District calendar that is distributed to each family, each school building's handbook and the INCommunity Magazine. The Annual Public Notice is also available in each school guidance office.

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

McKeesport Area School District uses the NWEA MAP assessment as a universal screener. The NWEA MAP is administered 3 times per year to all students K-12 in the district. The NWEA MAP assessment is a nationally normed assessment tool. These scores are reviewed for advanced scores and those students are offered enrichment activities through classroom enrichment opportunities and/or referred to our school psychologist to begin the multiple criteria gifted matrix for determining eligibility.

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

McKeesport Area School District's policy defines a gifted student as "a student of school age with an IQ of 130 or higher who meets established multiple criteria strongly indicated gifted ability or a school-aged student with an IQ lower than 130 when other educational criteria strongly indicated gifted ability" ...any determination of mentally gifted status shall include an assessment by a certified school psychologist. McKeesport's process includes a three-level criteria matrix in the evaluation process. The first criteria level observes cognitive assessment data, the second criteria level focuses on academic achievement data including the district's universal screening data of NWEA MAP. The third and final criteria reviews additional factors that may apply including rates of acquisition/retention collected from teacher and parent input.

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.

The Gifted Education program at McKeesport Area School District is designed to meet the needs of gifted students as defined by the PA Special Education law and regulations outlined in Chapter 16. The Gifted Education Program provides identified students with a variety of enrichment activities in an academically and socially supportive environment. At the K-5 level, this programming includes curriculum compacting, enrichment activities, and acceleration according to the individual students' needs. We also offer a pull-out program two days a week for all of the gifted students at the same grade levels to work together on community-based service learning projects along with

project based team building activities with the Gifted Teachers. They also participate in a variety of activities and functions that are facilitated by the regional Gifted Consortium. At the middle school level, grades 6-8, gifted programming includes opportunities to participate in honors level courses, academic competitions and activities, a number of project-based learning activities, and career oriented activities. Participants at the high school, grades 9-12, are encouraged to take challenging Honors, Pre-AP, CHS and Advanced Placement (AP) courses along with opportunities to participate in additional programs and activities relating to their interests.

Tia Wanzo
Chief School Administrator

09/21/2023
Date