

Warren County School District Gifted Program Recommendations SY 2006-2007 Implementation

(Items in **blue** are recommendations from the Gifted Study Group report of November 2005. Items in **red** are from both the study group report and Chapter 16.

Program Goals

- A. The Warren County School District Gifted Support Program is based on the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Chapter 16 guidelines.
- B. The Warren County School District Gifted Support Program is an individualized program.
- C. The Warren County School District Gifted Support Program is integrated with the regular education program.
- D. The Warren County School District Gifted Support Program develops and maintains an open communication process for all stakeholders.
- E. A guidance counselor is dedicated to the Gifted Support Program.
- F. Implementation of the new guidelines begins in the 2006-2007 school year.

Board Actions Needed:

- I. The Board will develop a WCSD policy that states that the Gifted Support Program is a K-6 enrichment/acceleration program and a 7-12 acceleration program.

For the purpose of this report,

Enrichment will be defined as an in-depth learning experience that provides interaction with new ideas, skills and topics that enhance curriculum. These experiences are based upon individual student strengths, interests and needs.

Acceleration will be defined as access to higher level learning activities and skill development provided in regular education to students of the same age. The pacing, complexity and depth of planned coursework are modified as indicated by individual needs. Acceleration may include: planned instruction compacting, subject acceleration, specially designed instruction, credit by examination or performance, interdisciplinary planned instruction, distance learning courses, higher education level courses or independent study.

Mentally Gifted will be defined as outstanding intellectual and creative ability the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. (22Pa.code §16.1) The term “mentally gifted” includes a person who has an IQ of 130 or higher, when multiple criteria as set forth in Department Guidelines indicate gifted ability. Determination of gifted ability will not be based on IQ score alone....The determination shall include an assessment by a certified school psychologist. (22Pa. Code §16.21(d)) A person with an IQ lower than 130 may be admitted to gifted programs when other educational criteria in the profile of the person strongly indicate gifted ability. (22 Pa. Code§16.21(d))

- II. The District will establish a Gifted Support Program Principal/Teacher/Parent/Student Advisory Committee to meet quarterly to discuss and support the Gifted Support Program.

- III. The administration will seek input from the Advisory Committee for a yearly program evaluation report to the CIT Committee
- IV. The administration will provide yearly training for the Gifted Support staff relevant to GIEP's, Chapter 16 and appropriate programming for gifted students.
- V. The Gifted Support Program is limited only to those students identified as gifted.

Elementary (K-6) Program

Location LEC

District Program Enrichment developed relevant to basic curricular areas (Math, Science, Soc. Studies, Language Arts)

Screening Calendar – all students will be screened at these points in their school career:

- 2nd sem. Kindergarten
- 2nd sem. First grade
- Grade 3
- Grade 6

Projected Staff 2 Elementary Certificated FTE, 1 Elementary Gifted Support Facilitator (the “facilitator” will oversee the writing of the GIEP's, be responsible for screenings, coordinate further evaluation when warranted, set up meetings with parents and classroom teachers, secure necessary materials for students, etc.)

Secondary (7-12) Program ++

Location Home school

District Program Acceleration through curriculum relevant to the student's area of strength

District Program Extensions (Stock Market Game, Math Competition, Debate, etc.)

Peer Enrichment Activities (at least 3 each semester at the LEC for grades 7& 8 and at least 2 each semester for grades 9-12)

- **Field Trips**
- **Seminars**
- **Workshops**
- **Other**

Projected Staff 2 Secondary Certificated FTE Gifted Support Facilitators

(the “facilitators” will oversee the writing of the GIEP’s, be responsible for screenings, coordinate further evaluation when warranted, set up meetings with parents and classroom teachers, secure necessary materials for students, etc.)

++ It is important to note that new certification guidelines require that any teacher providing instruction in grades 7-12 must have appropriate certification in that content area and grade level. If the secondary program continued at the LEC, it would necessitate assigning secondary staff in each content area being taught to the LEC for part of the day.

- It is also recommended that a **.5 FTE guidance counselor** and a **.5 FTE administrator** (the administrator may also be a “teacher on assignment”) be assigned to this program to support the needs of the students at all grade levels. Principals of 7-12 schools will be on-site administrators of the acceleration program.

****Continued .5 FTE secretarial staff and custodial services would need to be included.**