Identifying Gifted Learners
Family Information Session

April 5, 2022
Why do gifted learners need specialized services?

GOALS OF GIFTED EDUCATION

• Develop academic and personal potential of identified gifted learners
• Opportunities for in-depth learning, and development of critical and creative thinking skills
• Opportunities for interaction with academic peers to develop affective and leadership skills

Students requiring support to master curriculum

Grade level curriculum designed for typical learner

Students beyond grade level curriculum requiring advanced learning opportunities
Multiple measures that are non-discriminatory

Local Norms for best match to services

Casting a wider net to include traditionally underrepresented gifted learners

Identifying students who require learning experiences beyond those provided by grade-level curriculum
Equitable Identification of Gifted Learners

Referrals
- Teachers
- Parents/Guardians

Collect Information
- Achievement Measures
- Aptitude Measure
- Teacher Rating
- Student Work Sample

Selection Committee
Meet to consider all data & match students to services

Notification
- Parents/Guardians
- Teachers

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ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENTS
• Measure information or skills that a student has learned.
• NJSLA (4-8) Renaissance Learning (K-8)

APTITUDE ASSESSMENT
• CogAT to measure cognitive ability or the potential to learn

TEACHER RATING SCALES
• Rate student attitude, learning and achievement behaviors in the classroom
• Learning, Creativity, Leadership and Motivation
• Standardized, validated and used successfully for many years

STUDENT WORK SAMPLE
• Opportunity to demonstrate skills and ability in area of interest/talent
• Evaluation rubric

What is the STUDENT WORK SAMPLE?
Product that sets student apart from peers.
Creative, original or clever solution to a problem or
Product/sample demonstrates ideas, skills, and/or beyond grade level expectations.
Must be completed independently by student.
No tests or group projects.

STUDENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEETS
• Reviews all data
• Makes recommendations for services

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Bright or Gifted?
Characteristics of Gifted Learners

- Rapid Learners
- Many Interests
- Abstract & Complex Thinkers
- Advanced Readers and Writers
- Highly Curious
When abilities are left unchallenged...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS TO LOOK FOR</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learns easily and rapidly</td>
<td>Heightened sense of justice/fairness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivation/Task Commitment</td>
<td>Multipotentiality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highly curious</td>
<td>Individualistic and strong-willed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Works Independently</td>
<td>Ability to retain large amounts of information, advanced memory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced sense of humor</td>
<td>Highly creative</td>
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Finding and Serving Under-represented Populations of Students

• ELL

• Black, Latinx, and Native American students

• Twice-exceptional
ELL Gifted Students

Giftedness may “look different” so consider these questions:

• How quickly is the ELL student acquiring English?
• How adeptly does the learner switch between languages?
• Is the student exhibiting advanced reading in native language?
• Is the student creative or shows advance problem-solving ability?
• Does the student demonstrate advanced math skills?
Twice-exceptional Learners

Learners who are gifted & have a learning/physical disability.

Masking

Learning disability may mask giftedness...

... or giftedness may mask a learning disability

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How do I make a referral?

MPS Gifted and Talented Referral Form

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Student Support Committee will notify parents of their recommendations for the educational options that will meet the child’s needs in June.
Thank you!

Any additional questions to this google form:

https://forms.gle/zSnQTuPisdj4G4Yp6