

Mass Screening Referral Process

This process in the Petal School District is administered yearly to all first grade students. The district uses a normed group measure of intelligence in the Mass Screening Referral Process. The students are also referred by teachers, parents, administrators, peers, self, or anyone else having reason to believe that the student might be intellectually gifted. Once the student is referred, the district personnel shall collect the data required to satisfy the referral criteria. Beginning in the second grade through sixth grade students identified as Intellectually Gifted are served by a certified gifted teacher and are served a minimum of 5 hours per week. The goals and objectives of the Petal School District Gifted Studies Program are to provide a differentiated curriculum that incorporates students' interests, strengths, and learning styles: promote self-awareness and self directed learning, enhance leadership abilities and group dynamics: develop 21st Century Learning Skills (Common Core State Standards) in creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. The PSD Gifted Studies Program is committed to enhancing and enriching the educational experiences of all students through exposure to participation in the fine arts, career exploration, community services, technology, and social-emotional learning.

Stage 1: REFERRAL PROCESS

There are two types of gifted referral processes:

- **Type One- Mass Screening.** Students who score at or above the 90th percentile on the normed group measure of intelligence shall move forward in the process. Students who score between 85th and 89th percentile but lower than 90th percentile shall be subjected to an Emerging Potential for Gifted Referral Checklist. If students meet the criteria on this checklist, they shall move forward in the referral process.
- **Type Two- Individual Referral:** A student may be referred by a parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, peer, self, or anyone else having reason to believe that the student might be Intellectually Gifted. The person initiating the referral shall sign the referral form and date it. Once the student is referred, the district personnel shall collect the data required to satisfy the referral criteria. Once a referral form has been initiated, signed, and dated, only the LSC or parents can stop the identification process. Once the Local Survey Committee has determined that a student has satisfied minimal referral criteria in order to move forward to the assessment stage, district personnel shall review and compile all data available on the student. This data shall also be made available to a licensed examiner. At this point the parent will be sent a Parent Packet explaining the referral process. The parent must sign permission to test before any individual testing can be administered. The assessment stage includes an individual test of intelligence, which shall be administered by a licensed examiner. In no case will the examiner be related to the student being tested. A student must score at or above the 90th percentile composite/full scale or 90th percentile on approved subtest (as per publisher) in order to satisfy eligibility criteria. Once the Assessment Report is finalized, the LSC shall meet to review all data and determine if eligibility criteria have or have not been satisfied. The LSC shall rule that the student is or is not eligible for the intellectually gifted program. Parents will be notified in writing of each student tested for the Intellectually Gifted program about the assessment results. After a student has been ruled eligible for the intellectually gifted program, parents must sign consent for placement form in order for their child to be placed in the intellectually gifted program. The parent must sign yearly the consent to placement form for their child to reenter the program each school year.

*Parents can call The Special Services office (601-582-4247) to obtain a Parent Referral Form.

*Gifted Board Policy is available on the Petal School District Website.

Out- of-district and out- of- state gifted eligibilities:

Each state has a unique set of eligibility criteria for placement in a gifted program. Hence, a student moving to Mississippi with a gifted eligibility from another state must satisfy Mississippi eligibility criteria before being considered for placement in the gifted program. The eligibility ruling from another state may be used to initiate the referral process in Mississippi. There is no temporary placement in the gifted program while the student goes through the eligibility process within the local district. Students moving from another school district in Mississippi who have been ruled intellectually Gifted can be placed in the Petal School district Gifted Program with the parent signing a consent form.