

# School District of **WASHINGTON**



## ***Gifted Education***

### ***Identification Process***

#### State of Missouri: Definition of Gifted

Gifted students are defined in Section 162.675, RSMo as “students who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by competent professional evaluation to the extent that continued educational growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered through a standard grade-level curriculum.”

#### School District of Washington: Overview

The identification process is designed to assess the interaction of multiple traits including behavior and creativity, achievement and intelligence, and problem solving in order to develop a strong link between eligibility and our programming components. Although programming is different at each level (K-6, 7-8, and 9+), it begins at the Elementary grades with the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Launch curriculum. While addressing the social and emotional benefits of being with their peers, programming is exploratory in nature focusing on the design-thinking mindset through creative and collaborative problem solving activities. These activities and projects include computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. Within the middle school years, the same principles continue through interdisciplinary curriculum extension activities and special projects. Students at this level take a specific course that meets daily. By high school, all students have a multitude of course choices within the framework of continued exploration or specialization. As such, services in these grades are considered supportive services. These services focus on continued growth and achievement as well as post-secondary planning.

The School District of Washington follows guidelines for gifted identification required by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Multiple criteria are utilized to determine if gifted education services are needed. Our Gifted



## **Gifted Education**

### **Identification Process**

Programs are reviewed and approved at the state level annually. Additional information can be found at <https://dese.mo.gov/>

### **Screening**

All District students grades kindergarten through seven, will participate in universal screening at least one time annually. Additional screening measures will apply to students who are being monitored. Additional screening measures include monitoring of assessment results during multiple cycles from January to January. Students who meet the screening criteria to move on to individual assessment.

Grade Level & Time Frame	Assessment	Scores
Kindergarten and First Grade September, January and May Fastbridge	EarlyReading EarlyMath	Composite scores indicating advanced grade level performance
Second through Sixth Grade September, January, and May Fastbridge	aReading autoReading aMath Math Automaticity	95th percentile or higher in two areas
7th Grade September, January, and May Fastbridge	aReading autoReading aMath Math Automaticity	95th percentile or higher in two areas

Students may be considered for referral if a request is submitted by a teacher or parent to review other program variables to determine students who show evidence of giftedness.

### **Referral**

Students who were not present during the screening process for their grade level may be referred by a parent or teacher during the second semester. Secondary



## ***Gifted Education***

### ***Identification Process***

students who do not participate in universal screening may also be referred. Requests for referral forms should be made via email to [Teana.leslie@sdownmo.org](mailto:Teana.leslie@sdownmo.org). Referrals should also be submitted by email to Teana Leslie by February 1st. Referrals will only be accepted for students who did not participate in universal screening. Should you not have access to email please call Teana at the Board of Education building 636-231-2830 to make other referral arrangements.

Private, parochial, and/or homeschooled students who RESIDE within the boundaries of the School District of Washington may be referred to determine eligibility for gifted education services. Students referred will be screened and those meeting screening criteria will be recommended for further assessment.

Referrals for these students are accepted all year and are screened in the order received. Qualifying students will be scheduled to begin services at the beginning of the semester. Referral forms can be obtained as detailed above. Screening tools may include the following:

Grade Level & Time Frame	Assessment	Scores
Kindergarten - 8th grade	Results from a standardized achievement assessment given by the private, parochial, and/or homeschool such as the IOWA test of basic skills	95th percentile or higher in reading and mathematics or overall composite
Kindergarten-8th grade	Results from benchmarking assessment such as STAR Math/Reading, Scholastic Reading Inventory, or similar assessment	95th percentile or higher



## ***Gifted Education***

### ***Identification Process***

#### Identification Criteria

##### Criterion 1: Renzulli Scales

After screening, the initial step in assessment is designed to obtain a profile of the potentially eligible student. These scales will be completed by the student's primary teacher. The teacher will be asked to rate the student on a multitude of observable behaviors in comparison to their peers. The areas rated include learning, motivation, creativity, leadership, art, music, drama, communication, planning, mathematics, reading, technology, and science. Research shows that gifted students exhibit specific behaviors in comparison to their peers and the higher scorers are more likely to be considered gifted. As such, those scoring in this range will be recommended for further assessment.

##### Criterion 2: Academic Ability

A standardized, nationally normed measure of academic achievement of 95% or higher on the reading and math assessment or a 95th percentile or higher composite score on Woodcock Johnson Academic Achievement Test will be utilized for students recommended for further assessment. Testing must have occurred within a two year time period. Not all students meeting the screening criteria are assessed in all three identification criteria areas. For example, if a student does not meet the profile criteria they may not advance to this step.

Likewise, if they do not meet the achievement criteria, they will not move on to the cognitive ability testing (IQ). Appropriate assessment substitutions may need to be made depending on the age of the student or other appropriate individual circumstances consistent with proper use of this type of assessment tool.

##### Criterion 3: Cognitive Ability

A minimum score of 95th percentile or higher from the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children or Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales. This portion of the assessment is not only used to determine general intelligence but also specifically looks at reasoning and problem-solving ability. Appropriate assessment substitutions may

# School District of **WASHINGTON**



## ***Gifted Education***

### ***Identification Process***

need to be made depending on the age of the student or other appropriate individual circumstances consistent with proper use of this type of assessment tool.

#### Eligibility

**Please note that meeting multiple assessment areas does not identify a student as needing gifted education services. All of the information gathered throughout this process is analyzed by our team of gifted professionals. They utilize the information to determine a congruent relationship between the student profile and our programming, thus making an individual eligible for services.** Eligible students will be scheduled to start at semester (August, January).

Students who are English language learners (ELL), students with disabilities, and students with identified risk factors who demonstrate high ability but do not meet regular program criteria may be considered through a case study approach. A team of multidisciplinary professionals will review such cases as needed to make eligibility and placement decisions.

#### Reevaluation

Due to the screening process, School District of Washington students (as outlined in the universal screening section) have an annual opportunity to be reviewed for reevaluation. Reconsideration referrals may be made by February 1st one calendar year or more after initial eligibility assessment. Students may be given a maximum of two IQ tests during their time as a School District of Washington student. Further, a review of eligibility can be requested by the parent, if a student was found ineligible. Requests for review should be made to [Teana.Leslie@sdownmo.org](mailto:Teana.Leslie@sdownmo.org)

#### Transfer Students

Transfer students may submit results for gifted eligibility from their former District. Results and criteria utilized will be reviewed by our team of gifted professionals to determine if the information submitted also meets the School District of Washington's eligibility criteria. Several outcomes may apply including a



## ***Gifted Education***

### ***Identification Process***

determination of ineligibility, a determination of eligibility, or a determination of needing more information. If more information is needed, additional assessment or the case study process may be utilized depending on the individual student circumstances.

#### Missouri Scholars

Assessment referrals required for Missouri Scholars should be made to [teana.leslie@sdownmo.org](mailto:teana.leslie@sdownmo.org) for scheduling in December and early January. This is applicable to secondary students residing within the School District of Washington or attending a school within the District boundaries.

#### Contact Information

Tracy Helm, Gifted Education Psychological Examiner at [tracy.helm@sdownmo.org](mailto:tracy.helm@sdownmo.org)

Michelle Bobo, Gifted Educator K-6 [michelle.bobo@sdownmo.org](mailto:michelle.bobo@sdownmo.org)

Amber Strickland, Gifted Educator 7-8 [amber.strickland@sdownmo.org](mailto:amber.strickland@sdownmo.org)

Teana Leslie, Administrative Assistant [teana.leslie@sdownmo.org](mailto:teana.leslie@sdownmo.org)

Rachael Wilcox, Director of Social Emotional Learning [rachael.wilcox@sdownmo.org](mailto:rachael.wilcox@sdownmo.org)

Rachael Franssen, Assistant Superintendent [rachael.franssen@sdownmo.org](mailto:rachael.franssen@sdownmo.org)

The elementary gifted program is located at South Point Elementary School  
636-231-2700

Grades seven and eight are at Washington Middle School 636-231-2300

Board of Education Office 636-231-2830