

WEST BRANCH AREA SD

516 Allport Cutoff

Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16) | 2021 - 2024

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 West Branch Area School District conducts awareness activities on an annual basis. The West Branch Area School District informs the public of gifted education services through our handbook, local newspaper, and school district web page. Additionally, gifted education services are shared with parents/families during annual events such as Open House, Parent Teacher Conferences, and workshops designed specifically around the topic.

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

The West Branch Area School District implements a process for identifying gifted students. To begin with, staff are tasked with the routine review of student data sources to identify those students who consistently score in the advanced range. Beyond that child find activity, teachers and parents can refer students for gifted education consideration. Educational screening tools are used as indicators for students thought to be in need of gifted education based on student data, (benchmark assessments, PVAAS, classroom based assessments).

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

Educational screening tools are used as indicators for students thought to be in need of gifted education. Various sources of student data, (benchmark assessments, PVAAS, classroom based assessments) are considered. Students are evaluated by the School Psychologist to determine eligibility. Students meeting PA eligibility requirements are scheduled for a GIEP where the need for an educational program is discussed and developed as warranted. This process includes parents, student (as appropriate), teachers, administrators, school psychologist and others as needed.

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 West Branch Area School District provides a number of program options for acceleration and/or enrichment. At both the elementary and secondary levels, students have the opportunity to participate in pull out programs where educational activities, projects, and curriculum are tailored to student needs, interests and talents. In the elementary, the core program for ELA is structured around the concept of ability-level grouping which naturally permits acceleration for gifted students within the regular education environment. In the high school, students may access Honors, Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses as a means to receive acceleration, in addition to

enrolling in cyber coursework as deemed appropriate by the GIEP team.

Michelle Dutrow
Chief School Administrator

07/18/2022
Date