



Responsible Office: Office of Academics

BOARD POLICY 6525
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (“Board”) is committed to providing all students the opportunity to reach their academic and personal potential through challenging and relevant educational programming. Students shall have equitable access to academically challenging and appropriate curriculum and services. Through this policy, protocols related to gifted and talented education in the Washoe County School District (“District”) shall be established.

POLICY

1. Guiding Principles

- a. The Board believes that every student should have access to a stimulating and, as applicable, evidence-based curriculum and the opportunity to excel. The District seeks to provide comprehensive advanced academics to any eligible student, known as Gifted and Talented Education (“GATE”).
- b. The District may provide students identified as gifted and talented with differentiated instruction that is commensurate with their exceptional abilities through a wide spectrum of curricular and instructional services and opportunities.
- c. The framework for gifted and talented educational programming in the District involves, but is not limited to, the following objectives:
 - i. Expansion of students’ academic and intellectual skills;
 - ii. Stimulation of students’ intellectual curiosity, independence, and responsibility;
 - iii. Development of students’ social and emotional well-being;
 - iv. Development of students’ originality and creativity; and
 - v. Real world experiences.
- d. Students will have equitable access to academically challenging and appropriate programs and services regardless of race, national origin, sex, gender, religion, disability, or socio-economic status.

2. Guiding Practices

- a. The Superintendent may establish regulations, procedures, and practices necessary for the implementation and maintenance of Gifted and Talented Education curriculum and services. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. Requiring gifted and talented licensing and continuing professional learning for teachers of gifted students;
 - ii. Determination of eligibility, placement, and support procedures and protocols for student admission into the gifted and talented program, following guidelines established by the Nevada Department of Education;
 - iii. Appeal procedures related to the student admission process for Gifted and Talented services;
 - iv. Opt-in/opt-out of programming for the parent/guardian of an identified gifted student to select; and
 - v. Required classroom curriculum modification or accommodations expected for gifted students while they receive gifted and talented services.
- b. When a gifted and talented program is offered, the District shall establish a fair, consistent, and equitable process for identifying and serving gifted and talented students. Students shall be identified as gifted and talented in accordance with written protocols that include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Provisions for ongoing screening and selection of students who possess or demonstrate outstanding ability in one or more of the qualifying gifted and talented categories;
 - ii. Assessment measures;
 - iii. Data and procedures designed to ensure that students from all populations have access to assessment and, if identified, to services provided for students receiving gifted and talented curriculum;
 - iv. Provisions for final selection through the Nevada Department of Education's Gifted Identification Matrix; and
 - v. Provisions regarding reassessment, exiting students from program services, transfer students, and appeals of District decisions regarding program placement.
- c. Gifted and talented educational opportunities may be offered to students in grades 2 through 12 through models consistent with academic standards, the established procedures of the District, and national standards, if applicable.

- d. In accordance with state law, no student shall be required to take advantage of the special provisions for the education of gifted and talented students if a parent/guardian denies those services.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Gifted and talented [student]" means a person under the age of 18 years who demonstrates such outstanding academic skills or aptitudes that the person cannot progress effectively in a regular school program and therefore needs special instruction or special services. (NRS 388.5251)
2. "Gifted and talented" means a person who possesses or demonstrates outstanding ability in one or more of the following:
 - a. General intelligence;
 - b. Academic aptitude in a specific area;
 - c. Creative thinking;
 - d. Productive thinking;
 - e. Leadership;
 - f. The visual arts; or
 - g. The performing arts.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Through this policy, the District seeks to:
 - a. Provide additional educational opportunities for gifted and talented students; and
 - b. Comply with state and federal laws and regulations related to equitable access to such programs.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 6600, Course of Study
 - b. Board Policy 6605, Academics – Curriculum and Content Standards
2. This policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. Chapter 388, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 388.5251 – 388.5267, Gifted and Talented Pupils
3. This policy complies with Federal laws and regulations, to include:
 - a. Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act ("IDEA")

REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board shall receive notification of any required changes to the policy.
2. Administrative regulations, and/or other associated documents, will be developed as necessary to implement this policy. The Board shall receive notification of the adoption and/or revision of any implementing administrative regulations.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
3/12/2019	1.0	Adopted