

Addressing Specific Student Groups

Gifted and Talented Programs

1. List the goals, objectives, and strategies for the Gifted and Talented Program student identification and services along with the progress made in 2010-2011 toward meeting those goals, objectives and strategies.

GT Progress Made:

In 2010-2011 progress was made in all PK-12 goals. The academic needs of Talented and Gifted students continued to be met through the strategies outlined including the use of Primary Talent Development with all students in Pre-K through 2nd grade, the continued focus on differentiation in all regular education classrooms and identification and enrichment of students identified as GT beginning in 3rd Grade. Students from diverse backgrounds are identified as GT at a rate that is consistent with the county's student population. The curriculum at the middle and high school levels continue to challenge the GT students through a variety of accelerated courses as well as the fine arts including band, choral programs, art, drama and technology education. Professional development opportunities are offered to staff working specifically with our GT population including PTD as well as challenging lessons and performance based projects that span a wide range of topics including STEM. Parent and community awareness was improved upon last year with the GT Challenge, held April 15th, as a county wide showcase of the work and accomplishments of our GT students at the elementary level. This event will be replicated and expanded during the 2011-2012 school year.

Pre-K to 12th Grade Goals:

- To address the academic needs of Talented and Gifted students.
- To increase/maintain the representation of students from diverse backgrounds
- To continue to seek and provide access to a comprehensive, accelerated curriculum in the form of varied course offerings for our middle and high school students
- To implement and provide training to any staff member working with gifted students
- To increase parent and community awareness and participation in the GT program

a. Pre-K to 2: Objectives and Strategies

Objectives

- To nurture critical and creative thinking, questioning skills, and problem solving in all students
- To avoid the limitations of traditional student achievement results that may not cross cultures
- To broaden teachers' awareness of and response to gifted expression in student thinking and work

Strategies

- Use open-ended, highly engaging lessons of PTD: Primary Talent Development Program
- Conduct PTD refresher training for all primary teachers (PreK-2)
- Include all students in grades PreK-2 in PTD.
- Have designated PTD representatives in each school monitor and document evidence of the PTD units in each grade level.
- Continue to differentiate lessons to meet the learning styles and diverse needs of all learners.

b. Elementary (3-5): Objectives and Strategies

Objectives

- To identify students who academically excel on traditional measures and on PTD learning behaviors
- To provide differentiated opportunities for identified students' acceleration and enrichment within and beyond the school day while accelerating year 4 students beyond their grade level either by subject area or by an entire grade level

Strategies

- Establish Gifted and Talented teams at each school to use an End of Year Data Summary Sheet on each student in the identification of GT students for participation in Enrichment activities throughout the year.
- Use multiple sources of data, both qualitative and quantitative, to identify students for the G/T enrichment program. Examples include County Benchmark scores in Reading, Math and Science, MSA scores in Reading, Math and Science, the Naglieri Nonverbal Test (administered in 2nd grade to all students), report card data, student potential checklists completed by classroom teachers (adapted from Renzulli, 2004), parent and community nominations, Successmaker End of Course grade level, DIBELS data and PTD data from Pre-K to 2nd grade.
- Accelerate elementary students by grade when they qualify.

- Continue GT “pull out” program for identified students.
- Host at least one GT Challenge per year for students to showcase their GT projects that advance to the county level in their individual grade levels.
- Screen 100% of 2nd graders in the county with the online version of the NNAT II (Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test).
- Provide continuous and ongoing identification throughout the year.
- Inform the staff of the screening/referral process and solicit referrals
- Continue use of Successmaker software which provides individualized acceleration for students in the area of math reasoning and problem solving
- Increase number of identified students in grades 3-5. In 2010-2011, 123 students were identified as GT in grades 3-5 which represented 19.5% of the total population.
- Increase identification of students in minority subgroups in the GT Enrichment Program in grades 3-5.

Elementary Participation Data 2010-2011 by subgroup

	Asian	Black or Af. Amer.	White	Hispanic	Multi	FARMS	ESOL	SPED
3 rd	2.33%	34.88%	53.49%	4.65%	4.65%	60.47%	2.33%	0%
4 th	0%	22.22%	75.56%	0.00%	2.22%	51.11%	0%	2.22%
5 th	5.71%	20.00%	51.43%	14.29%	8.57%	40.00%	5.71%	0%

Elementary Participation Data 2011-2012 by subgroup

	Am Ind	Black or Af. Amer.	White	Hispanic	Multi	FARMS	ESOL	SPED
3 rd	3.85%	34.62%	51.92%	5.77%	3.85%	50%	3.85%	1.92%
4 th	2.38%	21.43%	66.67%	2.38%	7.14%	61.90%	0%	0%
5 th	0%	21.28%	78.72%	0%	0%	51.06%	0%	4.26%

c. Intermediate (6 & 7): Objectives and Strategies

Objectives

- To continue specialized programming for identified GT students in core academics and areas of interest
- To provide enriched and accelerated learning opportunities for GT students whose needs cannot be met through the regular classroom's differentiated instruction

Strategies

- Conduct Robotics class in grades 6 and 7

- Offer Algebra Part I to students identified as GT
- Use the high tech facility to enhance students' acceleration and enrichment through project based assignments
- Use extra curricular activities to enhance students' acceleration and enrichment through specialized projects and competitions.
- Continue with Learning Expos to highlight student learning

d. Secondary (8-12)

Objectives

- To continue specialized programming for identified GT students in core academics and areas of interest
- To provide enriched and accelerated learning opportunities for GT students whose needs cannot be met through the regular classroom's differentiated instruction

Strategies

- To continue to offer "honors" courses in Core Areas for identified students in preparation for AP Courses.
- To Increase number of courses in Art, Music and Band
- To offer opportunities for students to participate in Theater classes
- To provide opportunities for students to enroll and participate in the Introduction to Engineering course at both high schools
- To offer students more options in Advanced Placement courses including those online

2. Identify the strategies, including resource allocations, which appear related to the 2010-2011 progress.

a. GT Challenge was held for Grades 3-5 Students

- Each qualifying team of students in grades 3-5 traveled to the Central Office with their enrichment teachers to participate in a county wide challenge that was cancelled due to inclement weather the previous year

b. Additional strategies

- Increased counseling efforts to encourage high school students to take AP courses.
- Enhanced students' acceleration and enrichment through project based assignments supported by teachers'.
- All elementary school schedules have been constructed to provide for consistent Universal Time which will be used to pull out and enrich identified students in the GT curriculums.

CATEGORY	STRATEGY, PROGRAM, OR PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	FUNDING SOURCE, AND AMOUNT
Staffing/Scheduling	Provide Honors Courses and AP courses	Source: Staff Time Amount: \$0
Stipends/Staff	Somerset County Schools provided exhibitions of student work.	Source: Staff Time Amount: \$0
Stipends/Staff	PTD Representatives in each Elementary School	Source: Unrestricted Amount: \$798
Professional Development	Primary Talent Development Curriculum for grades PreK-2 staff	Source: Unrestricted Amount: \$721
Curriculum	Success maker Software	Source: Unrestricted Amount: \$6,785
Extra Curricular	Provided opportunities for visual arts, music and band, and drama after school	Source: Local Amount: \$6,785
Materials of Instruction	Robotics Class: Extended to 7 th grade	Source: Restricted STEM Amount: \$5000
Staffing/Scheduling	Pre-Engineering Courses offered at both high schools	Source: Unrestricted Amount: \$18,236

3. Challenges that are evident in meeting the Gifted and Talented program goals, objectives and strategies.

a. Providing services and finding funding to successfully address the needs of our GT students.

- Limited staffing at the elementary schools continues to impact the delivery of services during the regular school day.
- In the last 4 years Somerset County has lost 30 positions due to budgetary cuts.
- Extended school day opportunities have been limited due to lack of funding.

b. Limited curricular opportunities for use with GT students during pull out time at the Elementary Level.

- Teachers do not have the curriculum resources necessary to fully develop the giftedness of the students that they work with

3. **Changes or adjustments that will be made, along with the corresponding resource allocations to ensure sufficient progress (including timelines where appropriate).**

- Program monitoring will take place for PTD at the primary level twice per year.
- PTD Refresher training will be offered to teachers
- Elementary students in grades 2nd and 3rd will learn about the engineering process by participating in two **Engineering is Elementary** units
- Training will be provided to teachers who will be using the EiE units with students in 2nd and 3rd grades
- **Discovery Education Streaming Plus K-8** and **Discovery Education Science** subscriptions will be purchased
- Training will be provided to teachers in the use of Discovery Education subscriptions by qualified consultants from Discovery Education
- Seek additional funding sources to support GT program.

<i>CATEGORY</i> ADJUSTMENT and TIMELINE	RESOURCE	<i>FUNDING</i> <i>SOURCE, AMOUNT</i>
Professional Development will be offered to teachers of GT students	Professional Development	Source: Unrestricted Amount: \$1,000
Purchase and implement two EiE (Engineering is Elementary) units in 2 nd and 3 rd grade Fall 2011—June 2012	Curriculum	Source: Restricted STEM Amount: \$10,853
Professional development in the use of EiE units January 2012—June 2012	Professional Development	Source: Restricted STEM Amount: \$6,200
Discovery Education Streaming Plus K-8 and Discovery Education Science subscriptions will be purchased for Elementary Schools (one year subscription) Fall 2011—Fall 2012	Curriculum Resources	Source: Restricted STEM Amount: \$9,583
Professional Development in the use of Discovery Education Streaming Plus K-8 and Discovery Education Science will be conducted along with lesson modeling by the consultant	Professional Development	Source: Restricted STEM Amount: \$11,250.00

<i>CATEGORY</i> ADJUSTMENT and TIMELINE	RESOURCE	<i>FUNDING</i> <i>SOURCE, AMOUNT</i>
Fall 2011		
Seek additional funding to support GT Initiatives	Staffing	Source: Staff time Amount: \$0
August 2011—June 2012		