

Garrett County Schools Gifted and Talented and Schoolwide Enrichment Policy Statement

Board Policy

We, as a school system, are dedicated to meeting the needs of our students. Among our school population are those who are in need of challenging and advanced learning opportunities.

A gifted and talented student is defined by Garrett County Public Schools, the Maryland State Department of Education (defined in the Public School Laws of Maryland 8-201), and the United States Office of Education (P.L.5-561) as one who is capable of high performance as evidenced by potential ability and/or demonstrated achievements. Therefore, a gifted and talented student has the potential ability to excel consistently in at least one of the following areas: a) general intellect, b) specific aptitude, c) creative or productive thinking, d) leadership, and e) visual and performing arts. Such a student requires differentiated programs and/or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to realize his/her contribution to self and society. The identification of gifted and talented students involves the application of recognized criteria by professional educators. Therefore, Garrett County Public Schools will include programs in the following areas:

- a. **General intellect** - emphasis on aptitude in mathematics, language arts, science and social studies.
- b. **Specific aptitude** - emphasis upon acceleration and/or additional classes offered as selected courses of study in all areas of the curriculum, the latter dependent upon resources and personnel.
- c. **Creative or productive thinking** - emphasis on higher level thinking skills through regular classroom instruction
- d. **Leadership** – emphasis on opportunities for students to demonstrate leadership skills.
- e. **Visual and performing arts** –emphasis on acceleration and/or additional classes offered in the related arts, emphasis dependent upon resources and personnel.

In addition to specific programs available to identified gifted and talented students, schoolwide enrichment activities are provided to all students through the Garrett County Public Schools Gifted and Talented and School Enrichment Procedural Guidelines.

Additional information for elementary and combination schools Procedures for the Gifted and Talented Process may be found in the revised Administrative Procedure 345.31.