

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Millburn Public Schools

INFORMATION ITEM

March 8, 2011

To: Board of Education Members

From: Ellen E. Mauer, PhD

Subject: Policy 6:130- Program for the Gifted

This policy has been revised to reflect changes in the way the district plans for gifted/talented programs. Instead of the listed set of criteria, the district is given latitude to develop a program that qualifies for state funding if there is ever funding available. Legal references have been updated.

We can use this as our first reading and place this on the consent agenda for next time.

Instruction

Program for the Gifted ¹

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an education program for gifted and talented learners. If the State Superintendent of Education issues a Request for Proposals because sufficient State funding is available to support local programs of gifted education, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board concerning the feasibility and advisability of developing a “plan for gifted education” that would qualify for State funding. ²

Eligibility to participate in the gifted program shall not be conditioned upon race, religion, sex, disability, or any factor other than the student’s identification as gifted or talented learner. ³

In order to allow the School Board to monitor this policy, the Superintendent or designee shall report at least annually on the status of the District’s gifted program.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A-5 et seq.
 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State law controls this policy’s content to the extent that districts can qualify for State funding for the education of gifted and talented children, should such funding be available (105 ILCS 5/14A-5 et seq.). A policy on this topic is not required.

² School districts have the authority and flexibility to design education programs for gifted and talented learners, but these programs must comply with 105 ILCS 5/14A-30 to qualify for State funding, should such funding become available.

If a board does not wish to tie the gifted program to requirements for State funding, use this alternative:

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an education program for gifted and talented learners that is responsive to student needs and is within the budget parameters as set by the Board.

³ 105 ILCS 5/14A-25.

Instruction

Program for the Gifted

To the extent possible within the resources available, all gifted and talented students shall have an opportunity to participate in appropriate educational programs.

The term "gifted and talented students" means students whose mental development is accelerated beyond the average or who have demonstrated a specific aptitude or talent to the extent they need and can benefit from specially planned educational services. "Gifted and talented students" include students with exceptional ability in academic subjects, high-level thought processes, divergent thinking, creativity, and the arts.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide a gifted program which includes:

1. A system for the early identification of gifted and talented students;
2. An identification system based upon multiple techniques which ensures all students equal access to gifted and talented programs, regardless of social, economic, linguistic and ethnic background;
3. Educational programs which include access at all grade levels and which encompass all of the fundamental areas of learning;
4. Educational programs which provide for continuity among grade levels with programs consistent with the District's long-range goals;
5. Qualified instructional and administrative personnel with appropriate knowledge, training and experience to implement the program;
6. Staff development programs addressing the need for all teachers to be knowledgeable about the characteristics and learning needs of gifted and talented students;
7. Procedures to foster cooperative relationships among classroom teachers, parents, and the teachers assigned to the gifted program;
8. Procedures to foster parental involvement in all aspects of the program;
9. Procedures to continually evaluate the placement and progress of students in the gifted program with periodic progress reports issued to parents.

An annual report on the status of the District's gifted program shall be submitted to the Board of Education by the Superintendent.

Eligibility to participate in the gifted program shall not be conditioned upon race, religion, sex, disability, or any factor other than the student's identification as gifted or talented.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.61, 5/2-3.62, and 5/14A-1 et seq.

ADOPTED: May 20, 2002