



**EVERY STUDENT.
EVERY DAY.**

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Colorado Definition of Giftedness

The Exceptional Children's Educational Act (ECEA) defines "gifted" children as:

Those persons between the ages of four and twenty-one whose aptitude or competence in abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment in one or more domains are so exceptional or developmentally advanced that they require special provisions to meet their educational programming needs. Gifted children are hereafter referred to as gifted students. Children under five who are gifted may also be provided with early childhood special educational services. Gifted students include gifted students with disabilities (i.e. twice exceptional) and students with exceptional abilities or potential from all socio-economic, ethnic, and cultural populations. Gifted students are capable of high performance, exceptional production, or exceptional learning behavior by virtue of any or a combination of the following areas of giftedness.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has defined the following areas of Gifted identification:

General or Specific Intellectual Ability - (Specific Academic Aptitude)

- Reading
- Writing
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Languages

Specific Talent Aptitude

- Visual Arts
 - Performing Arts
 - Musical Abilities
 - Dance
 - Psychomotor Abilities
 - Creative or Productive Thinking
 - Leadership Abilities
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Despite the diversity of the population, Gifted learners do tend to display common characteristics. Though not always, these traits tend to be similar to some traits seen in Advanced learners. Below are some common characteristics of giftedness.

Common Characteristics of Giftedness:

- Exhibits advanced vocabulary for age/grade level
 - Reads with comprehension at an early age
 - Shows quick mastery and recall of factual material
 - Is a keen and alert observer
 - Displays curiosity about many topics
 - Has a passionate interest area
 - Shows intense concentration
 - Is a perfectionist
 - Sophisticated sense of humor
 - Good problem solver
 - Prefers to work independently
 - Prefers challenging and complex tasks rather than basic work
 - Sees connections between apparently unconnected ideas
 - Is persistent
 - Loves puzzles, mazes, brainteasers and numbers
 - Prefers older peers
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Steps for Identifying Gifted Students

Screening Process

Montezuma Cortez School District screens all second, fourth and sixth graders and follows established procedures for identification of Gifted students as mandated by Colorado Department of Education (CDE) guidelines. Each identified area requires three state-qualifying pieces of evidence within the entire body of evidence for official Gifted identification. Additional information about qualifying evidence and the identification process can be provided by school-specific Gifted personnel.

Referral Process

Students may be referred for the gifted education program at any time and at any grade level. Referrals may be submitted by teachers, administrators, counselors, parents, the student and peers. Referrals need to be submitted to the Gifted Education Liaison at the student's current school. Once a referral is submitted, a body of evidence is collected to determine a student's eligibility status. Parents/guardians will be notified of the process and timeline. Referral forms can be picked up from any Gifted liaison at your child's school or at on the District website.

Talent Pool

Students that do not meet eligibility requirements may be considered for the Talent Pool. Students in Talent Pool will often be provided with advanced or gifted programming services. As students are presented with additional levels of challenge and rigor, increased achievement may occur. A student may meet the criteria for gifted identification at a later date. Academic and testing progress on all students in the program is monitored throughout the course of the school year and parents will be notified of a student's progress. Students can be exited from the Talent Pool if they fail to meet the criteria for Gifted and Talented identification over time.

Transfer Students

Students enrolling in the RE-1 district that have been identified gifted at their previous district will be considered for identification in RE-1. Once paperwork from the previous school district has been reviewed, a determination will be made for gifted status.

Appeals Process

If the parent/guardian is not satisfied with the decision not to identify a student for the program, or disagree with the decision to remove a student from the program, they may appeal the decision by completing an appeal form and submitting it to the Gifted Education Coordinator. ALL appeals must follow professional protocol and use the following order for submission of appeals. For more information, please go to the SJBOCES gifted page: <https://www.sjboces.org/apps/pages/appeals>

1. GT coordinator
2. Superintendent
3. Board of education

Placement and Advanced Learning Plans

Placement decisions focus on how to best meet the needs of the student based on information gathered within the body of evidence. Students, parents and appropriate staff meet to determine the student's Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) goals. These goals are based upon the student's strengths, interests, and social-emotional needs. Goals are not about remediation of weaknesses: they focus on growth and development of the student's strengths. The ALP guides individual programming for the student and is updated annually.

Programming options for gifted learners

Programming options *may include the following:*

Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Flexible Grouping Differentiation within the Classroom Acceleration Knowledge Bowl Spelling Bee Destination Imagination Science Fair National History Day November Novel Writing Coding Math Olympiad	Differentiation within the Classroom Acceleration Advanced Math Courses Advanced Electives Knowledge Bowl Student Council Independent Study, Online Classes Science Fair National History Day Destination Imagination Math Counts	Differentiation within the Classroom Acceleration Advanced & Honors Classes Honors Diploma Concurrent Enrollment/Dual Credit Independent Study Advanced Placement Courses Knowledge Bowl National Honor Society

Additional Resources

Colorado Department of Education <http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt>

San Juan BOCES <http://www.sjboces.org/gifted/>

National Association for Gifted Children <http://www.nagc.org/>

Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented <http://www.coloradogifted.org/>

Twice Gifted www.twicegifted.net

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted <http://sengifted.org/>

Resources for Parents, Teachers and Students <http://www.giftedguru.com/>

Resources for Parents, Teachers and Students <http://www.byrdseed.com/>