

Gifted and Talented Program Models

The following program models are used in Marion County School District to serve students identified as academically and/or artistically gifted.

Pull-out Academic Model (Grades 3-5)

In this model, gifted and talented students are pulled from the regular classroom one day each week for 5 hours to receive differentiated instruction from a GT endorsed teacher. The curriculum (Mentoring Mathematical Minds – M³) focuses on enrichment that is directly related to grade level academic standards.

Special Class Academic Model (Grades 6-12)

In this model, gifted and talented students are grouped into special classes organized around one academic subject. The special classes deliver services to identified students through a rigorous and often accelerated curriculum. Students are assigned to a schedule which allows them to work with other gifted and talented students. Instruction is provided by highly-qualified teachers that differentiate instruction based on students' needs and interests. SC State standards are used as the basis for instruction. In grades 6-8, students are grouped for mathematics and in grades 9-12, students are grouped for English.

Special Class Artistic Model (Grades 11 and 12)

In this model, students are identified for artistic services through the use of state regulated auditions. Identified students are enrolled in a GT Honors Art Program that is instructed by a highly-qualified teacher that holds an Educator License in Visual Arts.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement classes provide our high school students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses and exams with the possibility of receiving college credit. The district's growing

Advanced Placement program currently has many courses underway in our high schools throughout the district. Classes include AP Studio Art, AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP English 3 (Language), AP English 4 (Literature) and AP Environmental Science.

Junior Scholars Program

The South Carolina Junior Scholars Program reflects the growing statewide effort to improve education in South Carolina and responds to the needs of students possessing unique abilities. The purpose of the program is to identify students and provide opportunities that will facilitate their intellectual growth, broaden their individual interests, and promote their scholastic achievement.

For specific information regarding the
ExCEL program, please contact:

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*Educate, Prepare and Inspire
Compassionately*

IDENTIFICATION OF ACADEMICALLY AND ARTISTICALLY

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Marion County School District



Dr. Kandace R. Bethea
Superintendent

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Phone: (843) 423-1811

Marion County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Section 504– Dr. Cassandra Strickland, Coordinator of Federal Programs, 719 North Main Street, Marion, SC 29571, 843.423.1811

Title IX– Mrs. Paula Grant, Director of Human Resources, 719 North Main Street, Marion, SC 29571, 843.423.1811

MISSION:

The mission of gifted education is to maximize the potential of gifted and talented students by providing programs and services that match the unique characteristics and needs of these students.

RATIONALE:

Gifted and talented students are those who are identified as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas and therefore require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential. (*Regulation 43-220, Gifted and Talented*)

BELIEFS:

Gifted and talented students have a right to an appropriate education, one grounded in the recognition of their individual differences and unique learning needs.

Gifted and talented students must be taught using a curriculum that is responsive to their individual strengths and learning styles.

Curriculum for gifted and talented learners must be founded on the South Carolina academic standards and must allow for both acceleration and enrichment.

The instructional environment for gifted and talented learners must encourage and nurture inquiry, flexibility, and critical and creative thinking.

WHY ARE STUDENTS IDENTIFIED?

The purposes of the identification process are to find students who display characteristics of the gifted and talented, to assess the aptitudes, attributes and behaviors of each student, and to evaluate each student for the purposes of placement.

WHAT ARE SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS?

- Learns easily and rapidly
- Recognizes implied relationships
- Takes pleasure in intellectual activities
- Interprets nonverbal cues
- Draws inferences

- Responds and relates well to parents, teachers and other adults
- Perceives similarities and differences
- Prefers complex tasks
- Retains what is heard or read
- Exhibits independence, individualism and self-sufficiency
- Demonstrates a curious and investigative nature
- Reads above grade level
- Possesses a large vocabulary
- Shows keen powers of observation
- Focuses intently on interests
- Grasps underlying principles
- Makes valid generalizations
- Displays a questioning attitude
- Produces original products or ideas

Academic Program Referral

Administrators, parents, teachers, and students may refer students for screening for the gifted program. This process continues throughout the academic year. Forms are available in schools and on the district website.

Initial testing will take place during the Fall. Since the screening process is multi-faceted and some students may require additional testing in March, final results may not be available until May. Parents will be notified of screening results by the close of the school year.

All second grade students are screened using CogAT and IA which takes place in November. Only those second grade students who have met the eligibility requirements will be notified by the district.

Students Transferring into MCSD

From South Carolina Districts: Students determined to be eligible for gifted in any district in South Carolina remain eligible in Marion County Schools. Proof of eligibility must be submitted to the Coordinator of GT by email at mrush@marion.k12.sc.us

From Out-of-State: Students who are transferring from other states may submit recent nationally normed aptitude and achievement test scores and an official record of grades to the Coordinator of GT at mrush@marion.k12.sc.us for screening possible eligibility for the GT program.

HOW DO STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR GT SERVICES?

Students may qualify automatically with an extremely high aptitude or IQ score at 96th percentile or higher for their age group. If students do not qualify solely on aptitude, this process will be used for screening:

Dimension A - Reasoning Abilities

Students must demonstrate high aptitude (93rd national age percentile or above) in one or more of these areas: verbal, nonverbal, quantitative and/or a composite of the three.

Dimension B - Academic Achievement

Students must demonstrate high achievement (94th national percentile and above or advanced status) in reading and/or math as measured by district or state assessments.

Dimension C –Intellectual/Academic Performance

Students must demonstrate a high degree of interest in and commitment to academic and/or intellectual pursuits, or demonstrate intellectual characteristics such as curiosity/inquiry, reflection, persistence/tenacity in the face of challenge and creative, productive thinking. Students in grades 2-5 may be eligible to take the Performance Task Assessment in March if they have already met the criteria in Dimension A or B. Beginning with grade 5, students must have a 3.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale to meet the criteria in Dimension C. Students must meet the criteria in two of these three dimensions to participate in the Gifted and Talented Program.