

Annual Report on Gifted and Talented Education

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OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

More than three decades ago, Senator Jacob K. Javits sponsored a bill requiring United States Commissioner of Education Sidney Marland to evaluate the status of the nation's gifted and talented children. The Commissioner was further directed to provide Congress with recommendations specifying how other federal educational assistance programs could be more effectively used to meet the needs of this population. The resulting report, *Education of the Gifted and Talented*, was published in 1972 and was widely acclaimed as a landmark document in the education of the gifted and talented.

For the next ten years, limited funds were provided to state and local educational agencies for program development. States, including Oklahoma, used the modest incentive grants to create statewide awareness of the needs of the students who were identified as gifted and talented. Those seed monies, in turn, led to the allocation of state funds to support further programming.

In 1981, Oklahoma became the seventeenth state to mandate educational services for students identified as gifted and talented. Twenty-three other states also mandated services for students who are gifted and talented. According to the 2010-2011 State of the States in Gifted Education, thirty-one states, including Oklahoma, fund gifted programs in some way. Oklahoma's funding comes through the state aid formula and is a weight of .34 for each student identified and served in gifted and talented education.

In the same year that Oklahoma mandated gifted and talented education, federal leadership in the area of gifted and talented education effectively ended with the passage of *The Education Consolidation and Improvement Act of 1981*. Many states, including Oklahoma, continued to expand programs and budgets for the gifted and talented throughout the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

In 2012, the Oklahoma State Board of Education passed the first Oklahoma Gifted Education Specialist certification in Oklahoma history. According to the 2010-2011 State of the States in Gifted Education survey, Oklahoma is now the thirty-fourth state to offer a gifted certification for teachers.



OKLAHOMA’S LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

Gifted and talented education was mandated by the legislature in 1981, through the enactment of Title 70 O.S. Sections 1210.301-307 (Senate Bill 214), making Oklahoma the seventeenth state in the nation to take this step. “Gifted and talented children” were defined as “those children identified at the preschool, elementary and secondary level as having demonstrated potential abilities of high-performance capability and needing differentiated or accelerated education or services.” For the purpose of this definition, “demonstrated abilities of high-performance capability” meant those identified students who score in the top three percent (3%) on any nationally standardized test of intellectual ability, or may include students who excel in one or more of the following areas:

- a. Intellectual ability,
- b. Creative thinking ability,
- c. Leadership ability,
- d. Visual or performing arts ability, and
- e. Specific academic ability (SB 214, Section 1).

Title 70 O.S. § 1210.301-307, also told schools to “. . . identify children in capability areas by means of a multicriteria evaluation. Provided, with first and second grade level children, a local school district may utilize other evaluation mechanisms such as, but not limited to, teacher referrals in lieu of standardized testing measures.”

In 1985, House Bill 1466, changed the definition of “demonstrated abilities of high-performance capability” to read:

“. . . those identified students who score in the top three percent (3%) on any nationally standardized test of intellectual ability. Said definition may also include students who excel in one of more of the following areas:”

- (1) Creative thinking ability,
- (2) Leadership ability,
- (3) Visual and performing arts ability, and
- (4) Specific academic ability.

House Bill 1466 also added the requirement for each local board of education to adopt a written policy. This policy statement was required to specify criteria for placement and to be consistent for Grades 1-12.

In 1990, the 42nd Legislature, in Senate Bill 770, Section 63, added the requirements that local school districts notify in writing the parents of students identified as gifted and talented “of the fact that the child has been so identified” and provide “each such parent a summary of the program to be offered such child.”

The Second Session of the 44th Legislature made several important additions to the



statutory mandate for gifted and talented education in House Bill 2041. Local Advisory Committees on Education for Gifted and Talented Children are to be appointed by local school boards. These committees will assist in formulating district goals, developing the district plan, preparing the district report and other advisory duties as requested by the local school board.

Each local school district must submit a Gifted Child Education Plan (CGEP) to the State Department of Education and keep a copy on file within the district. The GEP includes:

- (1) A written process for assessment and selection of children for placement in gifted and talented programming options.
- (2) A description of programming options and curriculum which demonstrates that the curriculum is sequential and is differentiated from the normal curriculum in pace, breadth, and/or depth.
- (3) Criteria for evaluation of gifted child educational programming.
- (4) Evidence of participation by the local advisory committee in establishing goals, planning, child identification process, and program evaluation.
- (5) Required competencies and duties of the staff for gifted and talented child educational programming.
- (6) A budget for the district gifted and talented child educational programming.
- (6) Gifted Child Count as required by the State Department of Education.

Other additions to the statutes include:

- (1) A yearly expenditure report for gifted and talented child educational programming submitted through Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS).
- (2) Program monitoring of twenty-five randomly selected districts.
- (3) Monitoring of other districts whose identified students are not, as a group, representative of racial and socioeconomic demographics of district student population, districts with unusual budget reports, inappropriate implementation policies or questionable gifted and talented child programming.
- (4) A penalty for districts who cannot demonstrate that the depth, breadth, and pace of the curriculum have been and continue to be in compliance with the provisions of Sections 1210.301-308 of Title 70.





- (5) A cap on the number of students for whom districts can be reimbursed for gifted and talented services. The number of identified students for which a district will receive reimbursement will be limited to:
- Those students scoring in the top three percent (3%) on any nationally standardized test of intellectual ability, and
 - Those students identified by multiple criteria; up to eight percent (8%) of the total average daily membership of the school district for the preceding year.
- It is important to note that this cap does not limit the number of students who can be identified and served; rather it limits reimbursement.



ROLE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

In administering the legislative mandate for gifted and talented education, the State Department of Education is required to provide:

1. The necessary State Department of Education staff with primary responsibility for:
 - a. Developing educational programs for gifted and talented children,
 - b. Assuring appropriate assessment and evaluation procedures for use by school districts of this state, and
 - c. Enforcing compliance with the provisions of Sections 1210.301-308 of Title 70 by school districts.
2. The procedures for educational screening, needs analysis and prescriptive programming for children who are gifted and talented by Regional Education Service Center personnel and others approved by the Department.
3. Inservice training for selected teachers, administrators, college personnel, parents and interested lay persons.
4. Assistance in the development of new programs and the projection of program alternatives for the eventual provision of high quality programs for all children identified as gifted and talented.
5. Recommendations to the State Board of Education concerning qualifications of teachers for children who are gifted and talented.
6. Recommendations for degree programs and short course seminars for the preparation of teaching personnel for children who are gifted and talented.
7. Selected procedural safeguards for all potentially identifiable and identified gifted and talented children.
8. Auditing of gifted and talented education programs in twenty-five districts, selected at random, each year to determine compliance with the provisions of Section 1210.301-308 of Title 70. Also, program monitoring and auditing for other districts who identified students are not, as a group, representative of racial and socioeconomic demographics of district student population, districts with unusual budget reports, inappropriate implementation policies, or questionable gifted and talented child programming.
9. Any other programs, services, supplies, or facilities necessary to implement the provisions of this act. (70-1210.303)

The staff of the Gifted and Talented Section provides technical assistance and inservice opportunities in local school districts statewide. Information and ideas are shared which assist schools in planning and evaluating their programming options. An important responsibility of the staff is the collection and compilation of child count data for the purposes of state aid allocation.

The emphasis of the Gifted and Talented Section continues to be appropriate assessment of and appropriate programming for individual student needs and abilities. This emphasis is based on the belief that students are identified because they have specific educational needs and includes not only identification of students but assurance that the design of gifted and talented programming provides for the unique needs of each child. Of major



importance is the utilization of culturally unbiased assessment and diagnostic tools so that culturally different and economically disadvantaged students are properly assessed.

As Oklahoma schools reexamine their curriculum, processes and programs relative to the educational reform mandates, education of gifted students is being reexamined and redefined. Appropriate educational opportunities come in the many forms discussed in this report. The provision of appropriate education services is a high priority for the staff of the Gifted and Talented Section.



SY2020-2021 CHILD COUNT DATA

The data collected and reported was derived from the Fall 2020 Gifted and Talented Report that is required to be submitted by each school district through Single Sign-On. 513 out of 549 school districts (or 93.4%) submitted their data. The following information reflects the statewide totals as reported by these districts.

Gifted and Talented State-Wide Student Totals

Identification Area	Number of Students
Total number of gifted students	86,299
Total number of gifted students identified, but not served	403
Total number of students identified in the top three percent (3%) on an ability test	34,447
Total number of students identified by multiple criteria	51,852
Total number of students identified with disabling conditions	2,269

Distribution of Gifted Students by Ethnicity/Race

Gifted and Talented Distribution by Ethnicity/Race	Total Number of Students
Hispanic/Latino	10,280
American Indian or Alaskan Native	9,157
Asian	3,222
Black or African American	3,139
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	157
White	46,324
Two or More Races	8,459



Distribution of Gifted Students by Gender

Gifted and Talented Distribution by Gender	Total Number of Students
Male	40,316
Female	40,422

Gifted and Talented Funding and Expenditures

Expenditure Summary	Total Amount
Total amount of gifted money generated through the state aid formula.	\$54,317,990.81
Total amount of gifted and talented money expended by districts.	\$90,627,869.94

Screening and Assessments Used for Identification

Category 1: Top 3% on a Nationally Normed Test of Intellectual Ability	
Type of Screening/Assessment Used in the Identification Process of Gifted and Talented Students	Number of Districts Utilizing
Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)	175
Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (K-BIT or K-BIT2)	74
Naglieri Non-Verbal (NNAT 1, 2, or 3)	140
Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)	167
Raven's Progressive Matrices	4
Slosson Intelligence Test-Revised	149
Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale	33
Wechsler Intelligence Scale III or Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale	43





Woodcock-Johnson Psychoeducational Test	91
Other	35
Additional Tests Given That are Not Achievement Tests	
Iowa Assessment	NWEA-Measures of Academic Progress
Pre-ACT, ACT	ASVAB
Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales	SAGES II
STAR math and reading	TONI and TONI-4
Wide Range Intelligence Test	WISC-IV
Category 2: Multi-criteria Evaluation Procedures	
Types of assessments	Number of districts utilizing
Autobiographies, work samples, portfolios, auditions	229
Measures of achievement	443
Referrals - professional, peer, parent, self	463
Scales, inventories, checklists	256



Criteria for Identifying Students

Type of Identification	Number of Districts or Charters Utilizing
General intellectual ability - Top 3%	475
Creative thinking ability	396
Leadership ability	388
Visual and performing arts ability	360
Specific academic ability	439

Types of Evaluations Used to Identify Category 2

Multi-Criteria Procedure Used in to Identify Students	Number of Districts or Charters Utilizing
Autobiographies, work samples, portfolios, auditions	234
Measures of achievement	455
Measures of performance	396
Referrals-professional, peer, parent, self, other	473
Scales, inventories, checklists	261
Test of intellectual ability	408

Gifted and Talented Programming

Gifted and Talented Programming Options	Number of Districts Providing
Acceleration	320
Advanced Placement® Courses	279



Cluster grouping	132
Concurrent enrollment	381
Continuous progress	116
Correspondence courses	81
Creative and academic competitions	391
Cross-grade grouping	170
Differentiated curriculum	312
Dual enrollment	179
Duke Talent Search	129
Enrichment classes	270
Enrichment in regular classroom	385
“Great Books” and “Junior Great Books”	29
Guidance and counseling	371
Honors, differentiated or enriched classes	278
Independent study	241
Individualized education programs	178
Individualized instruction	232
Instructional groups	162
Interest groups	198
International Baccalaureate	2
Learning centers	206
Mentorships	174
Ongoing assessment	211
Proficiency Based Promotion	503
Resource room	157



Saturday enrichment programs	22
Seminars/convocations	105
Special schools	14
Summer enrichment programs	110

Gifted and Talented Teacher Data

Gifted and Talented Educator Criteria and In-Service Training	Total Number in the State
Number of GT teachers who teach GT students for any portion of the day	31,935
Number of GT teachers who provide direct services (resource, pull out, AP/honors, enrichment)	1,125
Number of teachers, counselors, and administrators with certification, endorsement, and/or degree	190
Number of teachers, counselors, and administrators with some college coursework in GT	2,572
Number of teachers, counselors, and administrators receiving GT training in the last 3 years (National, state, SDE, district, and/or regional)	1,100

PROGRAMMING OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE GIFTED AND TALENTED

Appropriate programming for students who are gifted and talented will include many options of curricular modification which are designed to meet the assessed needs of the students. Each programming option must provide challenging educational experiences for these students.

Enrichment

Enrichment in the Regular Classroom - Experiences provided in regular classrooms that are supplemental to the established curriculum and which are purposefully planned with the needs, interests, and capabilities of particular students in mind. Appropriate enrichment experiences are not a repetition of material.



Seminars/Convocations - Special short-term sessions where students focus on one area of study.

Mentorships - A program which pairs individual students with someone who has advanced skills and experiences in a particular discipline and can serve as a guide, advisor, counselor, and role model.

Summer Enrichment Programs - Enrichment classes or courses offered during the summer months.

Saturday Enrichment Programs - Enrichment classes or courses offered on Saturday.

Creative and Academic Competitions - Organized opportunities for students to enter local, regional, state, or national contests in a variety of areas.

Differentiated Curriculum - Curriculum designed to meet the needs of high ability students and differentiated according to content, process, and product.

Learning Centers - A designated area or portable center designed to enrich and/or accelerate students' interests in a given content area.

“Great Books” and “Junior Great Books” - Discussions of great literature led by an adult discussion leader using a prepared question guide.

Special Classes

Honors, Differentiated, or Enriched Classes - Include differentiated curriculum and accelerated content designed for able students. These classes need not be limited to identified gifted students.

Advanced Placement Courses - College level courses provided at the secondary level for which students may receive college credit by examination (administered by the Advanced Placement Program® of the College Board).

Independent Study - Individually contracted in-depth study of a topic; also a course or unit of study taken through an individual arrangement.

Enriched Classes - A group organized from one or more classrooms which meets on a regular basis to provide experiences beyond the established curriculum.

Interest Groups - Any group organized from one or more classrooms on the basis of interest in a topic; usually short term in duration.

Correspondence Courses - High school courses taken by correspondence through an approved university.



Resource Room - A class for students released from their regular classroom on a scheduled basis to work with a teacher trained in the education of students who are gifted and talented.

Flexible Pacing Options

Continuous Progress - The content and pacing of curriculum and instruction are matched to students' abilities and needs. Students move ahead on the basis of mastery.

Acceleration - Administrative practices designed to allow students to progress through the curriculum and/or grade levels at a rate faster than the average.

Proficiency Based Promotion - Elementary or secondary students advancing one or more levels in a curriculum area by demonstrating proficiency at the proficiency level determined by each school district on designated assessments.

Concurrent Enrollment - Qualified students taking college courses concurrently while in high school.

Dual Enrollment - Qualified students taking middle level or high school courses while at the elementary level or high school courses while at the middle level.

Flexible Pacing Implementation

Cluster Grouping - Any classroom with a group of identified able learners purposefully organized to provide planned differentiated instruction most of the time.

Cross-Grade Grouping - Opportunity for a student to work in an advanced grade-level setting with one or more students sharing a similar readiness for the learning task and performance expectations.

Instructional Groups - Any group of identified able learners organized to provide planned differentiated instruction in a curriculum area.

Individualized Education Program - A program designed to meet the particular educational needs of that student.

Curriculum Compacting - A system designed to adapt the regular curriculum to meet the needs of above average students by either eliminating previously mastered work or streamlining work that may be mastered at a faster pace. The time gained may be used to provide students with appropriate enrichment and/or acceleration experiences.

Special Schools

International Baccalaureate (IB) - A rigorous, comprehensive program that enhances and extends the quality of the eleventh and twelfth grade course offerings. The



internationally recognized IB curriculum provides students with a comprehensive background in English, foreign language, the social sciences, physical and life sciences, mathematics, and the arts.

Special Schools - Specialized schools for high ability students, usually with a specific focus, e.g., performing arts and/or science (magnet schools or schools within schools).

Other Services

Guidance and Counseling - Planned activities, sessions and policies that assist students who are gifted and talented in planning their academic career in school and after high school, and that also address the specific social-emotional needs of students who are gifted and talented, including those students who are underachieving.

Ongoing Assessment - Students' abilities and needs are continually assessed through both formal and informal means designed to discover and nurture talent. The results are used as the basis for individual educational planning.

Duke Talent Search - Conducted by Duke University to identify academically talented youth and inform them about their abilities and academic options.

