



Weld RE-5J School District Gifted & Talented

District Definition, Identification, and Programming

The Mission of Gifted Services

It is the mission of the Weld RE-5J School District to ensure gifted student growth and achievement through systems of support, programming and advocacy.

Definition of the Gifted Student

Gifted and talented children mean those persons between the ages of five and twenty-one whose abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment are so exceptional or developmentally advanced that they require special provisions to meet their educational programming needs. Gifted students are capable of high performance, exceptional production, or exceptional learning behavior by virtue of any or a combination of these areas of giftedness:

- Specific academic aptitude
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - World Languages
- Specific Talent Aptitude
 - Creative or productive thinking
 - Leadership abilities
 - Visual arts
 - Performing arts
 - Musical abilities
 - Psychomotor abilities
- General Intellectual Ability

Identification

Universal screening of all Weld RE-5J School District students will occur in the second and sixth grade levels where a nationally recognized norm-based intellectual ability test will be administered. Those students scoring in the 85th percentile or above on this initial screener test will form a talent pool. Students of the Weld RE-5J School District may also be brought to the attention of the Gifted Education Coordinator through nomination by teachers, parents, self, peers, others working closely with the student, or previous school. This nomination can occur earlier than second grade.

Once a student has either entered the talent pool or been nominated, the district gifted education team will continue testing and data gathering for a period of time to form a body of evidence on each student. This body of evidence will include the following:



- Criterion and normed-referenced achievement tests
- Normed-referenced observation scales or inventories completed by teachers and/or parents
- District assessment scores

The body of evidence may also include:

- Normed-referenced test of creative ability
- Demonstration of performance within a district portfolio

The district gifted education team will meet to review the body of evidence on each case. Identification determination will be completed at this meeting and parents will be informed of the status of their student through a district letter mailed home. A process for disagreement can be initiated by notifying the building level principal and GT coach or coaches in writing.

Programming

Rather than a single gifted program, the RE-5J School District offers programming through a variety of techniques, options, and methodologies to accommodate the gifted learner. A detailed menu of programming options for each level (elementary, middle school and high school) is located on the district website. The ALP guides the programming for each gifted learner and can include:

- **Differentiation and Enrichment:** Efforts in the classroom focus on modifying the pace, depth, and complexity of classroom curriculum and instruction. It can also include assessment alternatives and supplemental curriculum. In some cases, flexible grouping, cluster grouping, and multi-age grouping are utilized.
- **Content Acceleration:** In some cases, early entry into a specific content area class may be granted for the exceptionally gifted. Acceleration may also include placement in grade level advanced classes, content acceleration, and/or curriculum compacting. High school students have the option of accelerated higher level learning in academic pathways such as STEM, college bound tracks through AP courses, and concurrent enrollment at the community college level as well utilizing online learning opportunities.
- **Affective Support:** Social/emotional needs and peer relationships for gifted students can be addressed in different ways at different schools within the district and are dependent upon available resources and staffing.
 - Character Education
 - Friendship Groups
 - Lunch Bunches
 - PBIS
 - GT Advocacy Class (Secondary)
 - GT Seminar (Secondary)
 - Senior Seminar (Required Career and College Counseling)
- **School Sponsored Enrichment Activities:** Opportunities will be available for gifted students to participate in enrichment activities that take place outside the classroom. Depending on the level and school of attendance, examples of such activities may include Knowledge/Brain Bowl, Spelling Bee, GT Seminar, State level competitions in music and various arts and clubs, various field trips and outreach programs, student government, and other like activities.