

## **ELEMENTARY GIFTED SUPPORT (effective 2020-2021 School Year):**

- 1. How does Wyoming Valley West School District identify mentally gifted elementary students?**
  - A. The District's identification of mentally gifted students continues to be consistent with Chapter 16 of the Public School Code of Pennsylvania. It includes an assessment by a certified school psychologist and other criteria.
  - B. Students are referred for initial screening for giftedness through various avenues, including, but not limited to, teacher referral based on observation and academic performance, high achievement level on nationally normed achievement tests, and parent request.
- 2. What instructional support is available to elementary students in the Wyoming Valley West School District who are identified as gifted?**
  - A. Instructional gifted support will continue to include appropriate specially designed instruction based on each student's needs and ability. It will include opportunities for acceleration and/or enrichment, as appropriate for each student's needs, and encourage the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, communication skills, and creativity.
- 3. How will Wyoming Valley West School District provide gifted support to elementary district students who are identified as mentally gifted?**
  - A. A GIEP team, convened in accordance with Chapter 16 guidelines, will develop a Gifted Individualized Education Plan based on the student's assessment for each elementary student identified as gifted. The GIEP will include a description of specially designed instruction, annual goals, and short-term learning outcomes that are responsive to the learning needs identified in the assessment report.
  - B. Each identified gifted student will have a GIEP Case Manager, a certified teacher who is responsible for the implementation of the GIEP.
  - C. Elementary students identified as gifted will participate in specially designed instruction in the following educational settings:
    - i. All identified elementary gifted students will be included in the general population of the elementary school they attend for much of the school day, including homeroom, lunch, recess, special subject classes, and some academic instruction.
    - ii. Gifted students will participate in specially designed instruction with opportunities for acceleration and enrichment in the curricular areas that are identified as areas of strength in their respective GIEPs. They will also participate in activities that are developed and planned to provide experiences that will enhance their areas of strength, to allow students to make community and academic connections, to explore career options, and to participate in co-curricular programs that enrich their classroom experiences beyond the district's curriculum.
    - iii. Gifted support and specially designed instruction will be implemented by certified and qualified teachers using a variety of methodology, including pull-out direct instruction in identified curricular areas, curriculum

compacting, embedded differentiated instruction, flexible grouping, and other educational strategies.

- iv. Newly identified gifted students will attend their “home schools,” as determined by the proximity of their home to one of the District’s 5 elementary buildings. The students will receive gifted support through acceleration and enrichment facilitated by a certified teacher with specific training in implementing GIEPs.
- v. Gifted elementary students who have previously attended Chester St. Elementary in self-contained gifted support classes will have the option to either attend their home schools or to remain in the Chester St. building through Grade 5. They will receive gifted support through acceleration and enrichment facilitated by a certified teacher with specific training in implementing GIEPs. This option is a one-time choice that will phase out for the 2024-2025 school year, or when there are no students attending Chester St. Elementary Center who had participated in self-contained gifted support classes that were in effect prior to the 2020-2021 school year, whichever comes first.

**4. Where will gifted support services be available to identified elementary students in the Wyoming Valley West School District, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year?**

- A. Gifted support through specially designed instruction and implementation of the student’s GIEP will be available in each elementary building in the Wyoming Valley West School District.

**5. Who will provide gifted support services to identified elementary students?**

- A. Every classroom teacher who interacts in an instructional setting with an identified gifted student will receive professional development on strategies and methodologies for working with gifted students to develop and encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, communication skills, and creativity.
- B. Gifted Support teachers will be assigned to each elementary building to implement specially designed instruction that provides opportunities for acceleration and enrichment in specific curricular areas, based on each student’s identified needs. The District anticipates the creation of three full-time (3) elementary Gifted Support positions beginning with the 2020-2021 school year to manage the implementation of elementary student GIEPs, with the allocation of these positions to specific locations to be determined prior to the 2020-2021 school year, based on the number of gifted students in each elementary building and the specific requirements of the GIEPs for those students.