

Regulation

GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS
GIFTED AND TALENTED ACADEMY

The Passaic Public Schools has developed criteria and procedures to identify students who demonstrate high levels of ability, and provide those students with learning opportunities that allow for exploration, growth, and achievement.

A. Eligibility criteria and procedures for admission to the Gifted and Talented Academy, Grades 2-8:

1. Entrance process for incoming grade 2 students:
 - a) All Passaic Public Schools grade 1 students will be automatically considered as applicants for the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy.
 - b) All Passaic Public Schools grade 1 students will be provided with an opportunity to take an assessment of creativity, that will be used in conjunction with standardized test scores, district approved assessments, and semester one grades for Math, English, Science and Social Studies from the current year to determine a ranked order of students for potential grade 2 entrance to the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy. The formula for the semester one grade calculation is as follows: The sum of the semester one grades in Social Studies, Science, Math, and ELA divided by four.
 - c) Acceptance letters will be sent, based on the number of available spots, to the highest-ranking grade 1 students.
 - d) Once acceptance is acknowledged by parent/guardians, grade 2 students will be given the option to select, in order of their ranking, a Passaic Gifted and Talented approved strand.
 - e) If available openings are declined by students who were offered acceptance, the next highest ranked student(s), will be contacted for enrollment.

2. Entrance process for incoming grade 3-8 students:
 - a) Students entering grades 3-8 who are eligible to attend Passaic Public Schools as defined by district policy may apply for admission.
 - b) Parents/Guardians of eligible students may complete the online application in order to be considered.
 - c) All incoming Passaic Public Schools grades 3-8 students, who apply to Passaic Gifted and Talented, will be provided with an opportunity to take an assessment of creativity, that will be used in conjunction with standardized test scores, district approved assessments, semester one grades for Math, English, Science and Social Studies from the current

year, to determine a ranked order, of students for potential entrance to the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy. The formula for the semester 1 grade calculation is as follows: the sum of the final grade in Social Studies, Science, Math, and ELA divided by four.

- d) If available openings are declined by students who were offered acceptance, the next highest ranked student(s), will be contacted for enrollment.
3. The Superintendent and his/her designee will identify a committee through which all applications will be reviewed. All applicants and their families will be notified as to the status of their acceptance, wait list, or non-acceptance.
4. Parents/Guardians of students accepted to the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy must notify the Principal of intent to attend within 14 calendar days.
5. Students placed on the wait list must reapply for the next school year.
6. Students who attended the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy during the previous year will not need to reapply.
7. Passaic Public Schools students that do not have NJ State standardized test scores and/or other application criteria because they recently entered the district from a state or country that did not provide them with these assessments, will have their application evaluated independently from the ranked applicant list by a school-based committee. If, after reviewing all available information, the school-based committee determines that the applicant should be granted admission to the school, the student will be admitted and expected to maintain all expectations as set forth in the Family and Student Contract.

Exhibits:

A. Gifted and Talented Academy – Strand Matrices Acceptance Matrix

Adopted: December 21, 1995
1st Reading: May 14, 2015
2nd Reading: June 1, 2015
Adopted: June 1, 2015
Amended: January 24, 2022
Amended: November 21, 2022