



## **Gifted & Talented Program 2020 - 2021**

### **Introduction**

The Passaic Public Schools recognizes and challenges the unique needs, talents and abilities of each child as an individual learner to develop to their fullest potential. Accordingly, we are committed to providing educational opportunities for those students who are exceptionally gifted and have established a program that provides gifted learners the opportunity to expand their knowledge beyond the foundations already created in classroom settings.

Our Gifted & Talented Program provides students with the opportunity to

- explore concepts, ideas and topics that extend beyond the grade level curricula.
- encourage the growth of creative critical thinking and problem solving abilities.
- collaborate with peers of like ability and receive differentiated learning experiences.

### **Definition of Giftedness**

Gifted individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (defined as an exceptional ability to reason and learn) or competence (demonstrated performance or achievement in top 5-8%) in one or more content areas. Content areas include: Mathematics, Language Arts, STEM, Visual and Performing Arts.

### **Screening & Identification**

The *National Association for Gifted Children* estimates that 6% - 10% of a local student population is gifted. While there is no single measure which can be used to identify, with certainty, that all gifted and talented students are selected for special programming.

Through the use of qualitative and quantitative measures, an identification strategy that includes multiple measures is the best way to ensure all gifted learners receive services. Student performance, rating scales and recommendations are evaluated for admission into the Gifted Program during the fourth marking period. Kindergarten students will be evaluated by the conclusion of the first marking period.

A family of a student new to the district may request a nomination be completed for the Gifted Program by asking the student's current/previous classroom teacher to complete a Teacher Rating Referral. The student's most recent performance data will be collected and reviewed by the Gifted Program Committee. If a student needs further evaluation the Committee will administer the assessments in less than 30 days.

## K - 12 Screening Periods and Protocols

### Kindergarten & Grade One

Screening Period	Screening Protocol
Fall of the Kindergarten year	Foundational Skills Assessment - all kindergarten students MAP Scores - ELA MAP Scores - Math
Spring of the 1st grade year	DRA Level MAP Scores - ELA MAP Scores - Math

### Grades Two - Grade Eight (Passaic Gifted & Talented Academy)

Screening Period	Screening Protocol
Winter of Each Academic Year	Average of ELA, Math, Science & Social Studies Grades MP 1-3 MAP Scores - ELA MAP Scores - Math Written Essay Audition by Talent Strand (Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Physical Education)

### Grades Six - Grade Twelve (Passaic Academy for Science and Engineering)

Screening Period	Screening Protocol
Winter of Each Academic Year	MAP ELA MAP Math MAP Science Written Essay

### Grades Six - Grade Twelve (Passaic Preparatory Academy)

Screening Period	Screening Protocol
Winter of Each Academic Year	MAP ELA MAP Math Written Essay

## CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

### Kindergarten and Grade One

<i>G&amp;T Services</i>	<i>Service Provider</i>	<i>Population Served</i>
Differentiated Instruction	Classroom teachers	Guided reading provide to all K & 1st grade students
Higher order thinking challenges and creative problem solving activities	Classroom teachers	Learning centers provide exploration for all K & 1st students
Pull Out Class Enrichment	GT/Arts Specialist	Instructional units geared at connecting talents from multiple contents and intelligences

### Grade Two through Grade Eight

<i>G&amp;T Services</i>	<i>Service Provider</i>	<i>Population Served</i>
Differentiated Instruction	GT Classroom teachers	All Grade 2 - Grade 8 students at PGTA School 20
Whole class enrichment - push in	GT Classroom teachers	All Grade 2 - Grade 8 students at PGTA School 20
Cluster Strategy based on Identified Gifted Criteria	GT Teachers/Arts Specialist/PE Specialist	All Grade 2 - Grade 8 students at PGTA School 20

### Grade Nine through Grade Twelve

<i>G&amp;T Services</i>	<i>Service Provider</i>	<i>Population Served</i>
Differentiated Instruction	GT Classroom teachers	All Grade 6 - Grade 12 students at Prep & Science
Higher order thinking challenges and creative problem solving activities	GT Classroom teachers	All Grade 6 - Grade 12 students at Prep & Science
Path Cluster Strategy based on Identified Criteria	GT/Arts Specialist	All Grade 6 - Grade 12 students at Prep & Science

#### Complaint Process and Procedures

Concerns and Complaints should be addressed to the Director of Student Advocacy, Dr. Mayra Silva,  
[msilva@passaicsschools.org](mailto:msilva@passaicsschools.org)

Link: [Gifted & Talented Complaint Process & Procedures](#)