

Prairie School District Gifted and Talented Program

Colorado Gifted Education Mission Statement

Recognize and nurture outstanding potential so that gifted students may become all that they are capable of becoming.

Colorado Gifted Education Vision Statement

All gifted Colorado youth, including those living in small towns and rural plains are identified by their strengths and needs. Educational programming is designed and implemented to match their identified needs. Student progress and achievement is monitored through on-going dynamic assessment. Teachers of gifted students participate in professional development to increase knowledge, skills and understanding of gifted students and required instruction.

-Colorado Department of Education

The state of Colorado defines Gifted and Talented students as children between the ages of five and twenty-one whose abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment are so outstanding that they require special provisions to meet their educational needs. Gifted students are capable of high performance in any or a combination of these areas:

- General intellectual ability
- Specific academic aptitude
- Creative, productive thinking
- Leadership and human relations skills
- Visual and performing arts

Referral/Identification Procedure

A comprehensive and cohesive process for student nomination must be coordinated in order to determine eligibility for gifted education services. Students will be recommended for gifted education based on a body of evidence. This body of evidence will include:

- Behavior Checklists
- Evidence of outstanding performance
- Aptitude on a cognitive abilities test-95th percentile
- Achievement on district and state tests-Advanced

Programming

Rather than any single gifted program, a continuum of programming services must exist for gifted learners. Differentiation and enrichment will take place in the classroom. Research-based instructional strategies used with all students will be modified to meet the appropriate challenge levels for gifted learners. High school students that have been identified may be given the option of college level classes as the schedule permits. A personal learning plan (PLP) will be created for those students who qualify. Teachers, parents, and students will be involved in the decision-making process.

Personnel

A staff development program is provided for school staff involved in the education of gifted learners.