



Gifted and Talented Referral and Identification Process

SVVSD identifies students K-12 for gifted services.

These students usually:

- Perform academically (or in a talent area) at least two years above grade level peers
- Display readiness for very advanced or accelerated learning opportunities
- Require additional academic challenges to support their continued educational growth
- Demonstrate characteristics of unique creativity and higher level thinking

The identification process begins with an opportunity* for educators, family members, community members, peers, and/or the student to refer an individual for gifted services. Once referrals are received, students are evaluated over a period of time. Performance in classroom settings, state testing data, standardized test scores, and behavioral rating scales are reviewed. Additional tests may also be administered to help determine a student's ability or achievement during the identification process. For talent area referrals (ie. performing arts, visual arts, or music, etc.) portfolios are requested and students will submit them for review.

In addition to referrals, district students are reviewed based on state testing and screening data. Each fall, the Gifted and Talented office screens CMAS and ACCESS testing results. Universal screening of second grade students is also conducted each fall. Students performing at the top of their grade level or at an accelerated pace are considered for gifted evaluation, which may include follow-up testing.

Identification in the state of Colorado requires a body of evidence that consists of quantitative and qualitative measures showing (cognitive, achievement, characteristics/behavior/motivation, etc). For students who have been previously tested, a full review of current and historical data is completed before next steps are determined. According to district policy, students can be administered cognitive testing for Gifted Identification twice in their academic career. Qualifying Scores are those in the 95th percentile for cognitive ability, talent ability, behavioral/learning characteristics, and achievement using assessment tools approved by the Colorado Department of Education and St Vrain Gifted and Talented Services. The GT department will also review external cognitive testing if it is provided to the GT department by the parent or guardian.

Parents and guardians are notified of identification decisions after a full BOE is reviewed. If a student is identified as Gifted and/or Talented through this process, teachers will also be notified and an Advanced Learning Plan will be developed with collaboration of parents/guardians and school GT representatives.

*A formal referral window is open in September of each school year. Additional referrals are processed year round on a case by case basis.

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