Instruction

Program for the Gifted

The School Board is dedicated to the principle that all gifted and talented students should be provided with access to educational programs appropriate to their needs. To the extent possible with the resources available, all gifted and talented students shall have an opportunity to participate in appropriate programs. Therefore, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide a gifted program that is consistent with the Board's philosophy and District goals.

Gifted and talented students means students whose mental development is accelerated or who have demonstrated a specific aptitude or talent to the extent they need and can profit from specially planned educational services. The term "gifted and talented students" includes students with exceptional ability in academic subjects, high level thought processes, divergent thinking, creativity, and the arts.

The Board recognizes that conditions necessary to ensure appropriate educational opportunities for gifted and talented students include:

- A system for identifying gifted and talented students early in their schooling experience;
- An identification system which is based upon multiple techniques which ensure all students
 equal access to gifted and talented programs, regardless of social, economic, linguistic, and
 ethnic background;
- Educational programs that include access at all grade levels and which encompass all of the fundamental areas of learning;
- The gifted program should provide for continuity among grade levels, and the objectives of the program should be in keeping with the long range goals for the District;
- Qualified instructional and administrative personnel with appropriate knowledge, training, and experience shall be required to implement an effective program;
- Staff development programs which address the need for all teachers to be knowledgeable about the characteristics and learning needs of gifted and talented students should be made available;
- Cooperative relationships among classroom teachers, parents, and the teachers assigned to the gifted program should be established and maintained;
- Active parental involvement is viewed as an integral and crucial ingredient of a quality gifted program. Every effort should be made to foster parental involvement in all aspects of the program;
- The placement and progress of students in the gifted program should be continually evaluated and documented, with periodic progress reports issued to parents.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an education program for gifted and talented learners. If the State Superintendent of Education issues a Request for Proposals because sufficient State funding is available to support local programs of gifted education, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board concerning the feasibility and advisability of developing a "plan for gifted education" that would qualify for State funding.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an education program for gifted and talented learners that will challenge and motivate academically advanced learners and engage them in appropriately differentiated learning experiences to develop their unique abilities. If the State Superintendent of Education issues a Request for Proposals because sufficient State funding is available to support local programs of gifted education, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board concerning the

6:130 Page 1 of 2

STREATOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 44

Board of Education Policy

No. 6:130

feasibility and advisability of developing a "plan for gifted education" that would qualify for State funding.

Eligibility to participate in the gifted program shall not be conditioned upon race, religion, sex, disability, or any factor other than the student's identification as gifted or talented learner.

The School Board will monitor this program's performance by meeting periodically with the Superintendent or designee to determine and/or review the indicators and data that evidence whether the educational program for gifted and talented learners is accomplishing its goals and objectives and is otherwise in compliance with this policy.

The Superintendent shall submit periodic reports on the status of the District's gifted program to the School Board.

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October 19, 2010 September 23, 2008 August 10, 2006

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A 5 et seq.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227.

CROSS REF.: 6:135 (Accelerated Placement Program)

6:130 Page 2 of 2