

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

August 26, 2008

Revisions to Policy EHBB (Local) Gifted & Talented Students And the Gifted & Talented Handbook

Board Goals:

- I.a. Remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus through out the district;
- I.b. Develop a culture where learning is our first priority;
- II.a. Cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum that supports all students;
- II.c. Expect full implementation on each campus by instructional leaders;
- II.e. Advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress overtime, regardless of external mandates;
- III.a. Promote and nourish a learning and working environment in a culture which is supportive, cooperative, friendly, and ensures open communication;
- III.b. Establish a high expectation level for success for all students, staff, parents, and community;
- III.c. Create in students a love of life-long learning;
- III.d. Motivate and prepare students to embrace their full responsibilities as active citizens of their community, nation, and world; and
- VI.a. Review and adjust policies and procedures effectively to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community.

Purpose of Report

The Gifted and Talented Program Handbook had a few discrepancies from Board policy. Some procedures have been revised in the handbook and some revisions have been made to the Board policy.

Objectives

- Kindergarten students may only be nominated for testing at a designated time each year.
- Students moving into Denton ISD who were identified as gifted at a previous district will have to meet our criteria or have more assessments done before being admitted into the program.
- A furlough may be requested by the parent or secondary student.
- Our scope and sequence has been revised to incorporate our new curriculum, based on Dr. Sandra Kaplan's model of Depth and Complexity and Scholarly Behaviors.

Executive Summary
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
August 26, 2008

Revisions to Policy EHBB (Local) Gifted & Talented Students
And the Gifted & Talented Handbook

Operational Impact

For the revisions presented at this time, there is no impact to our budget or personnel needs involved. In the future, we will be requesting personnel for bilingual testing.

Results

This report is briefly pointing out changes proposed to Board policy and the EXPO Program Handbook. The implementation of our newly written curriculum this year will require greater depth of understanding and complexity of skills from our gifted students. The goal is to make more life long learners among our students. Dr. Sandra Kaplan is a renowned researcher in the field of gifted education and her method of differentiation is highly acclaimed as a best practice for gifted curriculum. The disadvantage will be the work required by the EXPO teachers to implement this new curriculum. While the goal of taking our students to new levels is awesome, it has also required our teachers to go to new levels of complex curriculum writing. Actually, I can see that as an advantage, also.