

## Frequently Asked Questions

Please consult [The Resource Guide for the Education of Gifted Students](#) in Florida to assist with further questions. The questions listed here are some of the most frequently asked and are here for your convenience.

### **Q: Can students under the age of five on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the coming school year be eligible for the gifted program?**

A: [Section 1003.21](#), Florida Statutes states children who will have attained the age of 5 years on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for admission to public kindergartens during that school year under rules adopted by the district school board. Therefore, children must meet this requirement in order to enroll in kindergarten.

The parents may request the student's public school district conduct an evaluation to determine if the student is eligible for gifted services for students in kindergarten through Grade 12.

### **Q: Who may request testing for the gifted program?**

A: A nomination may be made by a parent/guardian, general education teacher or other school personnel, community members, self or peer to determine if the student is eligible for gifted services for students in kindergarten through Grade 12.

The district will then provide the parents with prior written notice before they propose or refuse to initiate the evaluation ([Rule 6A-6.03313, F.A.C.](#)). The district must also provide a description of each evaluation used as a basis for the proposed or refused action and a description of any other factors that are relevant to the district's proposal or refusal.

The school district will ensure that students suspected of being gifted are evaluated within a reasonable time as defined in the district's ESE Policies and Procedures document as required by [Rule 6A-6.03411\(2\)](#), F.A.C., but no more than 90 school days that the student is in attendance after the school district's receipt of parental consent for the evaluation. District are not required to conduct evaluations during the summer, so you will need to contact the district to see if this is an option.

### **Q: What is the Florida definition of gifted?**

A: In Florida, per [6A-6.03019](#), a student who is gifted is one who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance.

### **Q: What are the eligibility requirements for the gifted program?**

A: A student is eligible for special instructional programs for the gifted from kindergarten through Grade 12 if the student meets the criteria under 1. or 2. below:

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1. The student demonstrates:
  - The need for a special program
  - A majority of characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist
  - Superior intellectual development as measured by an intelligence quotient of two standard deviations or more above the mean on an individually administered standardized test of intelligence
2. The student is a member of an underrepresented group and meets the criteria specified in an approved school district plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for students who are gifted. Underrepresented groups are defined in [Rule 6A-6.03019](#), F.A.C. as students with limited English proficiency or students from low socio-economic status families.

## **Q: Who decides the gifted programming for a student?**

A: The district is responsible for developing Educational Plans (EPs) for students who are identified solely as gifted.

Note: Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) rather than EPs are developed for those students who are gifted and are also identified as having a disability.

The EP is to be developed by the district based on procedures that must be specified in each district's Special Programs and Procedures (SP&P) for the Provision of Specially Designed Instruction and Related Services to Exceptional Students document and be consistent with the requirements of State Board of Education [Rule 6A-6.030191](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The EP should provide detailed information that is useful to school personnel and to the student's parents. It should identify the special needs of the student related to the student's areas of giftedness and should identify the services that will be provided to ensure the student will progress appropriately.

The EP includes:

A statement of the student's present levels of educational performance that may include, but is not limited to, the student's strengths and interests, the student's needs beyond the general curriculum, results of the student's performance on state and district assessments, and evaluation results

A statement of goals, including benchmarks or short-term objectives

A statement of the specially designed instruction to be provided to the student

A statement of how the student's progress toward the goals will be measured and reported to the parents

The projected dates for the beginning of services and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of these services

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### **Q: Where can I find information about my district ESE policies and procedures? (SP&P)**

A: To view a district's approved SP&P visit <http://www.beessgsw.org/spp/institution/public>.

To view a district's past approved SP&P visit <http://beess.fcim.org/sppDistrictDocSearch.aspx>.

### **Q: What are the options for meeting the academic needs of gifted students at the secondary level?**

A: Students who are gifted may be provided exceptional student education services through a variety of options, including modifications of content, processes or products through a differentiated curriculum, curriculum compacting or acceleration through Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning plans (per [s. 1002.3105, F.S.](#)), or enrichment. These services may occur in a general education or gifted class. Gifted students may also require services in the areas of social skills development, underachievement, perfectionism and counseling. In addition to receiving gifted services, students who are gifted may apply to participate in other challenging academic options such as dual enrollment ([s. 1007.271, F.S.](#)), career and technical programs (see <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/>) or early graduation options ([s. 1003.4281, F.S.](#)).

### **Q: My child is home-schooled/ attends a private school. How can I get my child tested for gifted and what resources are available for that?**

A: Thank you for contacting the Florida Department of Education. The parents may request the school district conduct the evaluation to determine if he/she qualifies for gifted services for students in kindergarten through Grade 12. Please contact the referral coordinator at the public school where the student attends. There is no cost for the evaluation. If your child is attending a private school, please contact the referral coordinator at the public school where the student is zoned to attend.

The district will provide the parents with prior written notice before they propose or refuse to initiate the evaluation ([Rule 6A-6.03313, F.A.C.](#)). The district must also provide a description of each evaluation used as a basis for the proposed or refused action and a description of any other factors that are relevant to the district's proposal or refusal.

All school districts have approved policies and procedures regarding gifted eligibility; those policies and procedures are at the link at the end of this message.

The section regarding evaluation is in Part I, Sections H.1 and H.2, Initiating an Evaluation for Exceptional Student Education and Conducting Student Evaluations and Reevaluations.

The section regarding eligibility is in Part III, Section A, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Gifted.

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## ESE Policies & Procedures (SP&P)

[Section 1003.57\(1\)\(b\)1.](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires that district school boards submit to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) proposed procedures for the provision of special instruction and services for exceptional students once every three years. Approval of this document by FDOE is required by [Rule 6A-6.03411](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), as a prerequisite for district's use of weighted cost factors under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). This document also serves as the basis for the identification, evaluation, eligibility determination, and placement of students to receive exceptional education services, and is a component of the district's application for funds available under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

To view a district's approved SP&P visit <http://www.beessgsw.org/spp/institution/public>.

Some districts have more documents for gifted in Appendix B and Appendix C.

### **Q: What if I don't want gifted services for my child at this time?**

A: You may request a temporary break in service. The team developing the Educational Plan (EP) may determine that a student's needs may currently be appropriately met through other academic options. The parent or student may indicate that they do not desire service for a period of time. Should the decision be made to waive the services offered on the current educational plan, the student may resume service at any time.