INSTRUCTION

Programs for Advanced Learners

The District 29 mission statement articulates the Board's intent to provide an educational experience tailored to the unique educational needs of every student. To this end, the District shall provide programming and services. 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 feasibility and advisability of developing a "plan for gifted education" that would qualify for State funding. The Superintendent and administration, in collaboration with the Education Committee, will recommend specific program components to the Board of Education for approval. These components shall include staffing levels, the continuum of services, target content areas, target population, eligibility process, communication and reporting systems, and program evaluation systems. Eligibility to participate in a gifted program shall not be conditioned upon 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 advanced learners is accomplishing its goals and objectives and is otherwise in compliance with this policy.

Accelerated Programs

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP advances the District's goal of providing educational programs with opportunities for each student to develop to their maximum potential. The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP. APP options include, but may not be limited to: (1) accelerating a student in a single subject; (2) other grade-level acceleration; and (3) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade. Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented. Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in School Board policy, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an APP that includes:

1. Decision-making processes that are fair, equitable, and involve multiple individuals.
2. Notification processes that notify a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of a decision affecting a student's participation in the APP.
3. Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify the community, parent(s)/guardian(s), students, and school personnel about the APP, the process for referring a student for possible evaluation for accelerated placement, and the methods used to determine whether a student is eligible for accelerated placement, including strategies to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework.**[1]** Notification may: (a) include varied communication methods, such as student handbooks and District or school websites; and (b) be provided in multiple languages, as appropriate.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227.

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