



Lathrop R-II School District
Samantha Poindexter, Director of Student Services

700 East St.
Lathrop, MO 64465
816-710-6112

Rationale

The Lathrop R-II School District's gifted program is designed to meet the needs of a group of students identified as academically gifted. Because gifted students excel markedly in the ability to think, reason, judge, invent, and create; they must have specialized educational services, materials, and an environment where these abilities are respected and developed.

The importance of creating an atmosphere and providing resources appropriate for learning and respect of students is emphasized in our school district's mission, vision, and values.

Mission: **Develop a legacy of learning, success, and love for all**

Vision: **An Identity of Expectations, Excellence, and Traditions**

What We Value: **Relationships, Accountability, High Performance, Solidarity**

Gifted Curriculum Objectives

The Lathrop R-II School District Gifted Program focuses on the following specific needs as they relate to the gifted student based on the Portrait of a Gifted Learner from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Complex Reasoning: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Systems Thinking

Creative Thinking: Open-Mindedness, Risk Taking, Innovation Skills, Divergent Thinking

Affective Processing: Interpersonal Interactions, Intrapersonal Development, Leadership Skills

Global Mindedness: Awareness & Appreciation, Justice & Service-Oriented Life-Long Learner

Communicating Effectively: Self-Expression, Active Listening, Shared Understanding, Self-Advocacy

Executive Functioning: Project Management, Self-Regulation, Adaptability, Conflict Resolution

Program Overview

Students begin entering the gifted program at the 2nd grade level if they qualify for services.

At the middle school level, the students meet with their gifted classes every day for one class period. Emphasis will be on affective needs of gifted preteens, critical thinking, problem solving, communication skills, and creativity.

At the senior high level, there are no gifted-specific special services offered, but students will have the opportunity to enroll in advanced rank courses and dual credit courses.

District-Wide First Grade Evaluation for Placement into the Gifted Program

All Lathrop first grade parents will receive a letter during the first semester notifying them of an upcoming evaluation to be administered in their child's home school by the gifted facilitators. The evaluation is the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). Parents of students who meet the qualifying score (in the top 15% of all Lathrop 1st graders) on this test will be sent a Consent for Evaluation form to give permission for further testing. When the Consent for Evaluation form is received, the testing process will continue with step #4 below. A referral is not needed for first graders due to the district-wide screen.

Procedure for Placement of Students into the Gifted Program

1. A referral form is completed by a parent, teacher, or student and submitted to the gifted facilitator. Students may be referred from second grade through sixth grade. Transfer students will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If a referral is received after April 1, testing may be delayed until the start of the

next school year. The rationale behind testing only through 6th grade is because of less time being offered in the gifted classroom and more opportunities for advanced coursework in the regular curriculum.

2. After a referral is received, a Consent for Evaluation form is signed by parents.
3. After a Consent for Evaluation form is received from parents, the student is screened by the gifted facilitator using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) or an equivalent test. A student must have a score at the 85th percentile or above to qualify for further evaluation.
4. An IQ test is administered by the district testing coordinator. Students must have a full-scale IQ or General Ability Index (GAI) at the 95th percentile or higher to qualify for further testing. (If a student's full-scale score is 15 or more points lower than a previous district-administered IQ test, an alternative IQ test will be given to determine the most valid IQ score.)

When testing is complete:

- All scores (CogAT, IQ Test, Creative Assessment) are reviewed by the district coordinator in charge of gifted programming for final approval.
- The child's test results are placed in their cumulative file.
- A notification with test results is mailed to the parents.
- Parents can sign a consent form indicating willingness to accept special educational services for the child if the child qualifies.

Qualifying for the Gifted Program

- The student must qualify on all screeners and an IQ test in order to be eligible for the district's Gifted Program.
- Parent provides outside agency testing from a reputable source with a qualifying IQ score.

Reevaluation of Students

If a student does not qualify for program placement, a referral can be made a minimum of one year later for retesting. A maximum of two attempts (including the first grade screen) is allowed for Gifted testing in the Lathrop R-II School District.

Appeal Process for Gifted Evaluation

Students may be tested for entry into the gifted program a maximum of two times (including the 1st grade screen) with at least one year passing between each referral. If a parent/guardian would like to request testing before the one calendar year waiting period from the initial testing date, then the parent/guardian needs to complete the Appeal Form. Any additional documentation considered pertinent should be attached.

If an appeal is received by the school district, teachers who are working or have worked with the student will be asked to fill out a teacher evaluation form. The gifted team will then meet to go over previous CogAT scores and the teacher evaluations to determine further action.

Transfer Students

Students who transfer to Lathrop from another school's gifted program will be considered for Gifted based on testing information from their previous school district and in accordance with DESE guidelines which require transfer students to meet the minimum requirements of the district they transfer into. For Lathrop, students must have 95th percentile for IQ scores. Any additional testing that may need to be done will occur as soon as reasonably possible.

Students of military families and foster children that transfer into the district having been enrolled in a gifted program in their previous school will be initially accepted into Lathrop's gifted program until subsequent evaluations are conducted to ensure appropriate placement in accordance with Missouri state statutes Section 160.2000, RSMo and Section 160.1990, RSMo.

Maintaining Eligibility in Elementary School

Once a child has qualified for the gifted program, they will not be reevaluated. If it is determined that a child is twice exceptional or is struggling to be successful in the dual gifted/general education setting, the gifted facilitator will initiate a team discussion about the course of action to take regarding the appropriate level of participation in gifted programming. This meeting could occur within the setting of an IEP meeting, but as the expert in the area of giftedness, the gifted teacher will lead this portion of the discussion.

Maintaining Eligibility in Middle School

Secondary students will have the option to continue gifted programming unless a grade falls below 70%. If this occurs, at the discretion of the gifted facilitator, the

student may not be eligible to return to the gifted class until the grade is 70% or above.

Lathrop R-II School District
Parent Referral Form for the Gifted Program

Date _____

Referral initiated by _____ Relationship to child _____

Child's full name _____

Home School _____ Teacher _____

Child's date of birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Current grade level _____

Dad's Name _____ Mom's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Parent Email Address _____

Check if applicable: ☐ This child has a 504 Accommodation Plan.
☐ This child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
☐ This child **does not** have a 504 Plan nor an IEP.

The primary language(s) spoken at home is/are _____.

Please check the area(s) of special ability for which the child is being nominated. Give further information on the lines provided as evidence of special ability; such as, IQ score, achievement level, vocabulary, original ideas, curiosity, memory, etc.

- ____ A. General Intellectual. The child has the ability to perform in all academic areas or has a high IQ.
- ____ B. Specific Academics. An aptitude in a specific area. (Examples: reading, writing, math, science, etc.)
- ____ C. Creative Thinking. The ability to do divergent thinking resulting in unique responses and ideas.
- ____ D. Leadership. The ability to assume leadership roles and have that leadership accepted by others.
- ____ E. Other. Please identify and explain below.

Further evidence of exceptionality:

Please give this form to the principal in your nominee's building for signature. It will then be presented to the gifted facilitator.

Principal _____ Date _____

Gifted Facilitator _____ Date _____

Lathrop R-II School District
Gifted and Talented Education Program-Consent for Evaluation

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s),
Your child has been referred for testing to enter the Gifted Program. Your signed permission to test is needed to complete the assessments. In order to be placed into the Gifted Program, students must meet the qualifying scores on all tests as required by DESE. If a qualifying score is not met on any one test, then it negates further assessment.

Screen Reasoning and Problem-Solving Abilities Test (85th percentile or above score required.)

Intellectual Ability Individually Administered IQ Test (Full Scale of 95th percentile or above required.)

Please sign and return this form so that your child may be individually tested. You will be notified of the results by mail.

The Lathrop R-II School District has permission to do the necessary testing for the possible placement of _____ into the Gifted Program.
(Name of child)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s) or guardian(s) first and last name(s): _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

(Home Phone) (Cell Phone) (Email)

Sincerely,
Gifted Team

Lathrop R-II School District
Gifted Program
Appeal Form for Reevaluation

Students may be tested for entry into the gifted program a maximum of two times (including the 1st grade screen) with at least one year passing between each referral. If a parent/guardian would like to request testing **before the one calendar year** waiting period from the *initial testing date*, then the parent/guardian needs to complete this appeal form. Any additional documentation considered pertinent should be attached.

Parent Appeal Information

Student Name: _____

Grade Level: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Phone Numbers (Home & Cell):

(H) _____ (C) _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Date: _____

Brief Description of Appeal:

(Return form to Samantha Poindexter, samantha.poindexter@lathropschools.com)