

# **Gifted Education Feltwell Elementary School**

## **Definition of Gifted Learners**

**Gifted learners are children and youth with outstanding talent who perform or show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment.**

## **Characteristics of Gifted Learners**

**Gifted students reveal themselves in many ways and in a variety of settings. Informal observations by parents, peers, teachers, and others in the school community are often rich with telltale signs of giftedness. Differences in the expression of characteristics occur developmentally. Other differences result from the diversity of cultural, ethnic, economic, and environmental backgrounds of youngsters.**

**Certain traits appear to be able to distinguish gifted students from those in the average range. Students considered gifted in a specific area usually exhibit the majority of the following traits in addition to advanced skills in their main area/s of competence.**

**General characteristics most often found in research studies include:**

- **Rapid learning**
- **Extensive stores of information**
- **Strong problem-solving abilities**
- **Long attention span**
- **Sensitivity**
- **Perfectionism**
- **High degree of energy**
- **Wide range of interests**
- **Preference for older companions**
- **Well-developed sense of humor**
- **Early reading; avid reading**
- **Ease with puzzles and mazes**
- **Maturity in judgment, at times**
- **Perseverance**
- **Imagination/creativity**

## **Identification Procedures**

### **Purpose**

**The purpose of identification in the gifted program is to find students whose potential and/or performance is so extraordinary that they require differentiation in their instructional program.**

### **Steps in the Identification Process**

- 1. Referral of students for consideration by the Gifted Review Committee will be completed through:**
  - **Screening – Available data on all students are used to find likely candidates for gifted program services.**
  - **Nomination – Individual students are recommended by professional staff members, parents/guardians, or through self-nomination.**
  - **Transfer Records – Students whose records from schools outside of DoDEA indicate eligibility for a gifted program are recommended for immediate review.**
- 2. Assessment of each student is completed with parent or guardian permission.**
- 3. An eligibility decision for each candidate is made through a review of the student's assessment profile.**
- 4. Determination of gifted program services for eligible students is the decision of the Gifted Review Committee.**

### **Indicators of Highly Unusual Ability/Performance**

Eligible students demonstrate more than one of the following indicators:

- **Qualitative data (observations, anecdotal evidence, narratives, interviews) indicative of highly unusual ability or achievement**
- **A total score at or above 97<sup>th</sup> percentile on a nationally normed achievement test**
- **An IQ score of 130 or higher on an individual psychological (IQ test)**
- **A total score at or above 95th percentile on a group ability test**
- **An average rating scale score of 40 or higher from two or more educator raters combined with specific evidence in written narratives**
- **Very strong indicators of gifted behaviors as noted in parent or self ratings and narratives**

### **Gifted Services**

**Students may participate in more than one service option, depending on their individual needs. When the Gifted Review Committee has completed recommendations for an eligible student, the recommendations are presented for the approval of the principal. With principal approval, the parents/guardian of the student receive a letter indicating which services are available to the student. With parent permission, the services are begun for the eligible student.**

**At Feltwell Elementary School, the service options for identified students are:**

- **Regular classroom with differentiation**
- **Regular classroom with cluster grouping and differentiation**
- **Regular classroom with grade acceleration of content**
- **Resource sessions outside the classroom**
- **Individualized services**
- **Additional opportunities**