

## Gifted Education Overview

The Gifted Education Program continues to grow in Bayfield under the guidance of one full-time teacher at Bayfield Elementary School and one secondary level teacher who works between Bayfield Middle and High Schools. Program administration duties are assumed by the Director of Instructional Services in the Bayfield Administration Office. At the elementary level, the gifted education teacher keeps track of talent pool students to determine if they should be tested for the gifted program as well provides appropriate compacted and accelerated curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities to gifted students in grades 2 - 5.

At the middle and high school levels, the gifted education teacher facilitates curriculum needs by working with staff members to differentiate assignments, as well as provides sessions that address the social and emotional needs of gifted (SENG) students. At the high school level, students are placed in advanced-level or honors classes that challenge them in their area(s) of giftedness.

Colorado requires GT programs to include activities that address the social and emotional needs of gifted students. This includes encouraging and empowering students to advocate for their needs in their regular classrooms. In addition, these SENNG sessions help gifted students understand their giftedness, quirks, worries, and how to reach their top potential based on the work of Terry Bradley (Boulder, CO) and other well-known experts in the field.

All students in the gifted education program have an Advanced Learning Plan, which is individual to the student's needs and interests. Goals are collaboratively written by the students,

parents, teachers, and administrators, and are updated each year.

In collaboration with the Superintendent and building principals, the Director of Instructional Services oversees the program and its development. Areas of focus include compliance with state gifted education law, state grant allocation distribution, parent programs, data analysis, the identification process for new students, best practices in gifted education, and the Gifted Addendum to the Unified Improvement Plan.

### District Gifted Education Definition

Gifted individuals are those persons whose abilities, aptitude (defined as an ability to reason and learn), talents, and potential are so exceptional that they require provisions to meet their educational programming needs.

Gifted individuals include twice-exceptional and students with exceptional abilities or potential from all socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural populations. Gifted students are capable of high performance, exceptional production, or exceptional learning behavior by virtue of any or a combination of these areas of giftedness:

Colorado Department of Education areas of identification:

- a. General or specific intellectual ability
- b. Specific academic aptitude: reading, writing, math, science, social studies, or world language
- c. Creative or productive thinking
- d. Leadership abilities
- e. Visual arts, performing arts, musical or psychomotor abilities