

PUBLIC NOTICE
RIVERSIDE BEAVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GIFTED EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

The Riverside Beaver County School District operates programs for students identified as exceptional (gifted) in accordance with Gifted Education Standards and Regulations. The goal of the gifted support program is to encourage the development of intellectual and creative ability for the exceptional student. This program provides special services and programs not ordinarily provided in the regular education program.

Participation in gifted support is based upon the individual student's eligibility and need for acceleration and/or enrichment. State mandated identification criteria for the gifted support program must be met.

Riverside Beaver County School District has a system to locate and identify all students within the district who are thought to be gifted and in need of specially designed instruction. The Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GMDE) is a process to gather the information that will be used to find out if the student qualifies for gifted education and, if so, the types of programs and services needed. Part of this process includes an evaluation by a certified school psychologist.

A child may be referred for the first GMDE as follows:

1. Parents may ask the school to evaluate their child at any time, but requests are limited to one request per year. Parents may ask for an evaluation by sending a letter to their building principal. The school must have written parental permission to evaluate a child. School officials cannot proceed without written permission.
2. Teachers may ask to have a student evaluated. Written parental permission must be obtained prior to conducting the GMDE.

Evaluations needed to determine a child's eligibility for gifted programs and services will be provided by the child's school district at no charge to parents. Parents may, at their own expense, obtain an independent evaluation by a qualified professional that the school district must consider in any decision regarding the provision of gifted education. The evaluations must look at all information relevant to the child's suspected giftedness. This includes academic functioning, learning strengths, and educational needs. The process must also include information from parents or others who know the child. Information provided by the child may also be used.

The Gifted Multidisciplinary Team (GMDT) reviews all materials and prepares a Gifted Written Report (GWR) that recommends whether the child is gifted and needs specially designed instruction. As members of the GMDT, parents may present written information for consideration. The GWR must include the reasons for the recommendations and list the names and positions of everyone who was part of the GMDT.

The entire GMDE process must be completed within 60 calendar days from the date parents give written permission by signing the "Permission to Evaluate" form.

Further information regarding procedures, or the gifted support program, may be obtained by calling the school psychologist at (724) 758-7512, extension 3032.