



Responsible Office: Office of Academics

**BOARD POLICY 6525
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION**

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (Board) establishes this Board Policy to provide identified gifted and talented Washoe County School District (District) students differentiated instruction that is commensurate with their exceptional abilities through a wide spectrum of curricular and instructional gifted services and opportunities.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Gifted and talented student" means a person under the age of 18 years who demonstrates such outstanding academic skills or aptitudes that the person cannot progress effectively in a regular school program and therefore needs special instruction or special services.
2. "Gifted and talented" means a person who possesses or demonstrates outstanding ability in one or more of the following:
 - a. General intelligence;
 - b. Academic aptitude in a specific area;
 - c. Creative thinking;
 - d. Productive thinking;
 - e. Leadership;
 - f. The visual arts; or
 - g. The performing arts.
3. "Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Programs" offer differentiated instruction that is commensurate with gifted and talented students' exceptional abilities through a wide spectrum of curricular and instructional gifted services and opportunities.

POLICY

1. The District shall provide identified gifted and talented students access to a stimulating and as applicable, evidence-based curriculum. The District shall provide comprehensive advanced academics to any eligible student through the GATE Program.
 - a. The framework for gifted and talented educational programming in the District involves, but is not limited to, the following objectives:
 - i. Expansion of students' academic and intellectual skills;
 - ii. Stimulation of students' intellectual curiosity, independence, and responsibility;
 - iii. Development of students' social and emotional well-being;
 - iv. Development of students' originality and creativity; and
 - v. Real world experiences.
 - b. Students will have equitable access to academically challenging and appropriate programs and services regardless of race, national origin, sex, gender, religion, disability, or socio-economic status.
3. When a gifted and talented program is offered, the District shall establish a fair, consistent, and equitable process for identifying and serving gifted and talented students. Students shall be identified as gifted and talented in accordance with written protocols that include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Provisions for ongoing screening and selection of students who possess or demonstrate outstanding ability in one or more of the qualifying gifted and talented categories;
 - b. Assessment measures;
 - c. Data and procedures designed to ensure that students from all populations have access to assessment and, if identified, to services provided for students receiving gifted and talented curriculum;
 - d. Provisions for final selection through the Nevada Department of Education's Gifted Identification Matrix; and
 - e. Provisions regarding reassessment, exiting students from program services, transfer students, and appeals of District decisions regarding program placement.

4. Gifted and talented educational opportunities may be offered to students in grades 2 through 12 through models consistent with academic standards, the established procedures of the District, and national standards, if applicable.
5. In accordance with state law, no student shall be required to take advantage of the special provisions for the education of gifted and talented students if a parent/guardian denies those services.
6. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to adopt an Administrative Regulation to implement and maintain the purpose of this Board Policy. The Superintendent shall include in the Administrative Regulation the following provisions:
 - a. Requiring gifted and talented licensing and continuing professional learning for teachers of gifted and talented students;
 - b. Determination of eligibility, placement, and support procedures and protocols for student admission into the gifted and talented program, following guidelines established by the Nevada Department of Education;
 - c. Appeal procedures related to the student admission process for Gifted and Talented services;
 - d. Opt-in or opt-out of programming for the parent/guardian of an identified gifted student to select; and
 - e. Required classroom curriculum modification or accommodations expected for gifted students while they receive gifted and talented services.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This Board Policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 6600, Course of Study; and
 - b. Board Policy 6605, Academics: Curriculum and Content Standards.
2. This Board Policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. NRS Chapter 388, System of Public Instruction, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 388.5251 – 388.5267, Gifted and Talented Pupils.
3. This Board Policy complies with Federal laws and regulations, to include:
 - a. Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA).

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
3/12/2019	1.0	Adopted
06/14/2022	2.0	Revised: Update format per BP 9070 and clarify language