

FACT SHEET



Giftedness

What is Giftedness?

"Gifted" means performing or demonstrating the potential for performing at significantly higher levels of accomplishment in one or more academic fields due to intellectual ability, when compared to others of similar age, experience and environment (K.A.R. 91-40-1(bb)).

Identification of Giftedness

In Kansas, gifted is a category of eligibility for special education services. Eligibility for gifted is two prong. The first prong involves: evidence of performing or demonstrating the potential for performing at significantly higher levels of accomplishment in one or more academic fields; evidence of being due to intellectual ability; and evidenced that when compared to others of similar age, experience and environment. The second prong provides evidence that the child needs special education (specially designed instruction) and related services.

Districts typically follow a systematic, multi-phased process for identifying gifted students to find students who need services beyond the general education program. The best identification practices rely on multiple criteria to look for students with giftedness. Multiple criteria involve:

- multiple types of information (e.g., indicators of student's cognitive abilities, academic achievement, performance in a variety of settings, interests, creativity,

motivation; and learning characteristics/behaviors);

- multiple sources of information (e.g., test scores, school grades, and comments by classroom teachers, specialty area teachers, counselors, parents, peers, and the students themselves); and
- multiple time periods to ensure that students are not missed by "one shot" identification procedures that often take place at the end of second or third grade.

Characteristics of Giftedness

It is important to note that not all gifted children look or act alike. Some consistent indicators of giftedness include:

- "good" thinking – e.g. reasoning, conceptual understanding, abstract thinking, problem solving;
- ease or speed of learning – may learn from being told/shown just once; see errors as learning opportunities;
- advanced verbal abilities – early/sophisticated expressive language development, sophisticated vocabulary and/or complex sentences (although some gifted children actually begin to talk later than usual, then progress swiftly);
- advanced receptive language that can be observed (advanced ability to comprehend concepts, vocabulary, directions and questions);



- exceptional memory – e.g. can retain information after brief exposure; able to recall early life events in complete detail;
- exceptional concentration or attention span – a long attention span when interested; children in the upper levels of giftedness may be able to concentrate on more than one thing at a time;
- perseverance or motivation – greater goal-directedness and persistence to completion, an appetite for learning;
- wide range of interests and knowledge – interests may be intense and outside what is expected for children;
- preference for older companions – prefer older children/adults to age peers, which may reflect advanced language levels, preferences for complexity in play, mature views of friendships;
- keen observation – an eye for detail; notes subtle changes;
- quantitative ability and interests – interest and skill in numbers; greater interest in time, calculators, money;
- exceptional spatial ability – interest and skill in puzzles, maps, diagrams; advanced sense of place and direction; and
- early use of symbolic representation – early or sophisticated drawing or writing.

Resources

Kansas Special Education Process Handbook <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=598>

KSDE Eligibility Indicators <https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SES/misc/iep/EligibilityIndicators.pdf>

KSDE SETS <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=506>

Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) <https://ksdetasn.org/>

Kansas Association for the Gifted, Talented, and Creative <http://www.kgtc.org/>

National Association for Gifted Children <https://www.nagc.org/>

For more information, contact:

Special Education and Title Services Team
(785) 296-7454
specialeducation@ksde.org



Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

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