

Frequently Asked Questions about Gifted Education

What does it mean to be gifted?

Intellectually gifted is defined in Mississippi public schools as having an individual IQ test score above the 90th percentile. An IQ of this level indicates superior intelligence. Only 5% of the population has an IQ of 120 or above.

What is IQ?

IQ (intelligence quotient) is the ration of mental age divided by chronological age multiplied by 100. This is measured on an intelligence test. IQ's may range from 0 to 200. The average IQ is 100.

How does a child get ruled into the gifted program?

This is a three tier process. The first stage is the referral stage. Students may be referred by their teacher, parent, counselor, administrator, peer, self, or anyone else who may have reason to believe that the student might be gifted for the gifted program. The next stage involves gathering information on the student. If the student meets the referral criteria, parental permission allows the student to move to Phase I Assessment. Additional information is gathered there. If the student meets the criteria at this level, they move to Phase II which consists of an individual IQ test. If they meet the criteria set by the Mississippi State Department of Education, they are then eligible for the placement in the gifted program pending parent signature.

What does it mean if a child is twice-exceptional?

A student who is twice-exceptional has a SPED ruling under IDEA and also meets the criteria for inclusion in the gifted program.

How does this affect the regular classroom teacher?

The gifted regulations refer to classroom teachers in a section called "Homework/Classwork" found on page 27 of the regulations. I have included this section here.

"Gifted students in grades 2-8 may not be required to make-up classwork missed when they are scheduled to be in the gifted classroom. Gifted students shall be held accountable for demonstrating mastery of concepts and information on regularly scheduled tests. It should be noted that some gifted students will not be high academic achievers for a variety of reasons. It is not reasonable to expect intellectually gifted students, artistically gifted students, and/or creatively gifted students, by virtue of having been granted one of those gifted eligibility rulings, to make all A's and B's. The exception is academically gifted students in grades 9-12 who have been ruled eligible

based on exceptionally high academic achievement in the pertinent area
being served