

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM
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PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Areas of Service

In Kindergarten through Grade Twelve, students in Prince William County are identified and served in the areas of General Intellectual Aptitude and Specific Academic Aptitude. Identification and service in Specific Academic Aptitude includes identification and service in language, in mathematics, in science, and in social studies. At the secondary level, students may be identified for service in foreign language.

Identification Process

The identification process includes a Profile Development Committee at each school. This committee develops the student eligibility profile that is then reviewed at the Division-wide Identification/Placement Committee as a part of the process of determining eligibility and services. At the Division-wide Identification/Placement Committee, four readers assess each profile folder independently using Determination of Eligibility Forms. These assessments are then compared by the Table Leader to determine eligibility.

The Eligibility Decision Form mirrors the Determination of Eligibility Form and includes four components, (1) aptitude test scores, (2) grades, grade level, and criterion-referenced tests, (3) norm-referenced achievement tests, student responses, work samples, and external examinations such as Advanced Placement Examinations, and (4) parent or guardian and professional reports. These components are rated on a scale of far exceeds age peers of similar environment and experience, exceeds such age peers, is consistent with age peers, or is below age peers. Students are considered for eligibility in Specific Academic aptitude in language, in social studies, in mathematics, and in science. At the secondary level, foreign language is also considered. Student who are considered eligible in three or more discipline areas are considered for eligibility in the category of General Intellectual Aptitude.

Program Design

Multiple options are available for students in Prince William County Public Schools. Certain of the options are reserved for identified gifted students, but specialty program options are open to students on an interest basis and provide a range of opportunities for identified students.

Elementary School:

Direct Resource Services	Kindergarten - Grade Three Delivered on School Site Up to 90 minutes each week
Direct Resource Services	Grades 4-5 Delivered on School Site or in Center 225 minutes each week – Resource Room Program
Classroom Services	Extension Periods with Trained Teacher 225 minutes each week
Specialty Programs	Grades 4-5 Mathematics and Science Program Grades K-5 – International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Middle School

Direct Resource Services	Grades 6-8 Delivered on School Site Up to 90 minutes each week – Resource Room Program
Classroom Services -	Extended Language Arts, Extended Mathematics 225 minutes each course each week Classroom Differentiation in Science and Social Studies
Specialty Programs	Grades 6-8 Mathematics and Science Programs Grades 6-8 – Foreign Language Programs Grades 6-8 – International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programmes

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Program Design *continued*

High School

Direct Resource Services	Grades 9-12 Delivered on School Site Up to 90 minutes every other week – Seminar Program
Classroom Services	Pre-AP and Advanced Placement courses IGCSE and AICE courses – Cambridge Programme International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programmes
Governor's School Programs	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Summer Residential Programs
Specialty Programs	Cambridge Programmes International Baccalaureate Programmes Centers for Information Technology Bio-Tech Program Center for Natural and Environmental Science Center for International Studies and Languages Center for Fine and Performing Arts

Curriculum

The curriculum of the Gifted Education Program is based upon both the William and Mary Model of curriculum design and upon the Parallel Curriculum Model. The curriculum includes an emphasis upon understanding the structure of a discipline, including advanced content in that discipline, critical thinking skills and high level processes, and problem finding and solving with complex product development in the discipline. In addition, the curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary connections including abstract conceptual themes. The socio-emotional needs of students are considered through the curriculum of identity of the Parallel Curriculum Model.

Staffing

Gifted education resource teachers have a specific job description as well as specific evaluation criteria. Resource teachers must complete the Virginia Gifted Education Endorsement within three years of the date of hire. Classroom teachers who have identified gifted students in their classes must complete at least eighteen hours of professional development within five years to fulfill Virginia Accreditation standards as defined within Prince William County.

Parent and Community Involvement

As Prince William County is a site-based management school division, parents and community members expect to take an active role in Division planning. All plans developed for the Gifted Education Program include community involvement. The Gifted Education Advisory Committee is involved with the development and monitoring of program communication. This especially includes web page communication. Parents are surveyed every three years as an indicator of the parent perspective on the effectiveness of program services.

Local Advisory Committee

The Gifted Advisory Committee meets monthly during the school year. The committee visits schools and prepares an extensive report for the Superintendent and School Board each year. The committee also reviews Division dashboard indicators that are used to monitor the academic success of identified students, the inclusiveness of the identification process, the effectiveness of professional development programs, and the satisfaction of students, parents, and teachers with the Gifted Education Program.

Gifted Education Coordinator Contact Information

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