

AMBRIDGE AREA SD

901 Duss Avenue

Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16) | 2021 - 2024

CHAPTER 16

Chapter 16 of the PA Code specifies how Pennsylvania will meet its obligations to suspected and identified gifted students who require gifted education to reach their potential. Gifted students are to be provided with quality gifted education services and programs. Requirements for Gifted Education Plans can be found in the Pennsylvania Code (22 Pa Code §16.32).

In accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 4.13(e) (relating to strategic plans) and 22 Pa. Code § 16.4, each school district shall develop and implement a gifted education plan every 6 years.

- a. The plan shall include the process for identifying children who are gifted and in need of specially designed instruction, as well as the gifted special education programs offered.
- b. The school districts shall make its gifted education plan available for public inspection and comment for a minimum of 28 days prior to approval of the plan by the school district's board of directors.
- c. Each school district shall provide, as the Department may require, reports of students, personnel and program elements, including the costs of the elements, which are relevant to the delivery of gifted education. (22 Pa. Code § 16.4)

1. Describe your district's public notice procedures conducted annually to inform the public of the gifted education services AND programs offered (newspaper, student handbooks, school website, etc.).

The Ambridge Area School District screens all students for possible gifted eligibility based on a review of data and a universal screener is given to students in elementary who are scoring above average on a variety of assessments. Possible data sources include: PSSA scores, Classroom Grades, Universal screenings (Aimswest), and Teacher referral. The universal screenings are conducted throughout the year to identify high-achieving outliers. The School District will compile the data and determine if the student meets the criteria for a full gifted multi-disciplinary evaluation. If an evaluation is warranted, the District will issue the necessary paperwork to initiate the process. If the evaluation is not warranted, the school district completes a screener report and provides the parents with the specific data and rationale for the non-qualifying student.

2. Describe your district's process for locating students who are thought to be gifted and may need specially designed instruction.

The Ambridge Area School District locates students by teacher recommendation or the review of assessment data. These data sources include: PSSA Scores or classroom grades. The District also conducts universal gifted screening for elementary students who have high scores on their local assessments.

3. Describe your district's procedures for determining ELIGIBILITY (through MULTIPLE CRITERIA) and NEED (based on ACADEMIC STRENGTH) for potentially mentally gifted students (EVALUATION).

Eligibility is determined by one of the District's School Psychologists through a multidisciplinary evaluation. A battery of assessments are utilized depending on student data and review of records.

4. Describe the gifted programs* that are offered to provide opportunities for acceleration, enrichment, or both. *The word "programs" refers to the CONTINUUM OF SERVICES, not one particular option.

The Ambridge Area School District's Gifted Program provides opportunities for both enrichment and acceleration. There is one gifted teacher for the elementary/ middle school level and a half-time gifted teacher for the high school that provide enrichment and several students accelerated to classes in higher grade levels.

Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Date