

# Hope Township School



GEM: Gifted Education Matters

Administrative Reference Guide

# MISSION STATEMENT

The gifted and talented program (GEM) at Hope Township School seeks to prepare, empower, and inspire students to be lifelong learners and leaders, in alignment with our district's mission and vision. Students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication. This will be evidenced by the development of innovative performance-based tasks that utilize and develop higher-level thinking skills.

In accordance with New Jersey state regulations, Hope Township School has a gifted and talented education program (GEM) for students in grades K - 8. Identifying students for participation begins with a review of academic performance on various standardized assessments which are administered to all students, parent/teacher recommendation, and a final review of a student's score on tests of aptitude achievement, and creativity. A review of all data will determine eligibility for program participation.



# Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment

(Membership fee)

As a member of the SCCSE, Hope Township School is able to offer various field trips (in person or virtual as allowed by guidelines) as part of the gifted programming. This provides opportunities for our gifted population to interact with diverse groupings of peers.

## WCCSE presents Professional Learning for Gifted Instructors

Provides resources for teachers, administrators, and community members on identification of giftedness as well as research based best practices for addressing the needs of gifted students.

## Differentiation (Classroom Teacher)

Based on student needs, teachers should provide differentiation in a variety of ways such as:

- Design lessons based on a student's learning style
- Create assignments that vary the level of content, style of process, or type of product
- Group students by shared interest, topic, or ability and focus on concepts
- Assess student learning using formative assessments



# Eligibility Determination Process

## Step 1 Identifying potential gifted students

- Review of student records on accessible standardized assessment or universal screener.
- Students in the top 10% of class and/or exhibiting indicators of giftedness will be referred for the testing process.
- A student recommended by a teacher or parent will be referred for the testing process.

## Step 2 Permission to test / Subjective Data Forms

- Send home permission form and parent paperwork.
- Teachers complete Student Profile Forms.
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## Step 3 Standardized Testing

- Review all student data to determine candidates for additional screening.
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## Step 4 Qualifying Gifted Assessment

- Administer the SAGES-3 (Logic and Reasoning Test)
- Measure of aptitude via verbal and nonverbal reasoning (K - 5)
- Measures of achievement via subtests in language arts/social studies and mathematics/science. (K - 5)
- Input scores onto the Eligibility Profile Form. (Grades 6 - 8)
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## Step 5 Eligibility Profile Form

- Compute and evaluate the data.
- If the student qualifies, inform parents and instruction begins.
- If the student does not qualify, inform the parents of the student's progress in 2 years, if appropriate



# Parent Request

- A parent may request an evaluation to determine eligibility by sending a written request to the Principal.
- A review of records will be conducted by the team.
- If the student falls within the potential to qualify (in the top 10% on universal measures) the student will continue in the testing process.
- If not, the parent will be notified and the student's progress will be reviewed in 2 years.



## Special Circumstances

What if the student is new to the district and has gifted paperwork from their previous school?  
Do they need to be retested at Hope Township School?

It depends: If the testing paperwork presented is comparable to the testing at Hope Township School the student can be admitted without further testing. If it is not comparable, the student will need to be tested under the Hope Township standards.

Special circumstances will remain confidential amongst the GEM administrative team.

# Exit Criteria

Students previously found eligible do not need to be reevaluated. They will continue in the program except in the situations explained on the following slide.

## Reasons for Removal

- Students are expected to maintain a B or higher in the following subject areas: math, science, social studies, language arts. Should the student fall below a B in a trimester they may not participate in the pull-out activities until their grade stabilizes.
- Parent request. There are various reasons that would lead to a parent requesting their child be removed from the GEM program. They include: a need to remain in above mentioned subjects. In this situation, the parent needs to provide the request in writing to the Gem teacher.



## Complaint of Non-Compliance Procedures



The Gifted and Talented Program (GEM) of Hope Township School seeks to prepare, empower, and inspire students to be lifelong learners and leaders, perfectly aligned with our district's mission and vision. Students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication. This will be evidenced by the development of innovative performance-based tasks that utilize and develop higher-level thinking skills. Gifted and Talented services are available to all students in grades K-8 who meet the established criteria.

Complaint procedures regarding non-compliance with district policy regarding Gifted and Talented:

**Step 1)** Contact Mrs. Lianne Markus at [lmarkus@hope-elem.org](mailto:lmarkus@hope-elem.org). Please include your child's name, grade, phone number, address and reason for non-compliance complaint. Parents will receive a written response to the complaint within 10 school days.

**Step 2)** If you feel that your complaint is not resolved, contact Mrs. Tammy Green, Principal, via email at [tgreen@hope-elem.org](mailto:tgreen@hope-elem.org) Please include your child's name, school, grade, phone number, address and reason for complaint for non-compliance. Parents will receive a written response to the complaint within 15 school days from the date the complaint is received.

**Step 3)** If you feel that your complaint is not resolved, contact the Hope Township Board of Education. Please include your child's name, school, grade, phone number, address and reason for complaint for non-compliance. Parents will receive a written response to the complaint following Board action.

**Step 4)** If you feel that your complaint is not resolved, you can submit a complaint to the executive county superintendent within one year prior to the date that the complaint is submitted. The complaint shall include:

- A statement that the identified school district is not in compliance with the provisions of this act, and the specific facts on which the allegation of noncompliance is based; and the name, address, and contact information of the complainant.
- The executive county superintendent shall complete the investigation within 60 calendar days after receipt of the complaint and issue a written decision with proposed remediation, if necessary, to the complainant and the school district.

**Step 5)** The individual may then file a petition of appeal of the board's written decision to the Commissioner of Education through the Office of Controversies and Disputes in accordance with N.J.S.18A:6-9 and the procedures set forth in State Board of Education regulations

For more information, please reference Policy # 2464 - [Gifted & Talented Students](#)

## Useful Links

NJDOE Student Learning Standards. Gifted and Talented

National Association for Gifted Children: NJAGC

National Association for Gifted Children: NAGC

Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment Presents:

Profession Learning for Gifted Instructors



