



ESSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pathways to Excellence

Gifted Education Program

Identification, Services, and Referral Process for Scholars

Definition of Giftedness

“Essex County Public Schools defines giftedness as the manifestation of high levels of ability and achievement.”

Scholars demonstrate exceptional potential at the 85th percentile or higher relative to peer groups.

Intellectual Ability

Demonstrated advanced reasoning and problem-solving capacities across academic disciplines.

Academic Aptitude

High performance capabilities in specific subject areas requiring differentiated instruction.

Qualification Thresholds

85th

Percentile Benchmark

Minimum score threshold on standardized norm-referenced ability assessments.

Multiple

Holistic Criteria

Evaluation includes test data, teacher ratings, parent observations, and student work samples.

Gifted Service Delivery Models



Differentiated Instruction

In-class tier enrichment and advanced academic depth.



Cluster Grouping

Collaborative learning with intellectual peer groups.



Resource Acceleration

Targeted extension tasks and specialized seminars.

Referral and Identification Process

STEP 1

Referral Submission

Initiated by parents, teachers, or scholars.

STEP 2

Screening & Data

Testing scores, rating scales, and portfolios gathered.

STEP 3

Committee Review

Multidisciplinary team evaluates eligibility profile.

STEP 4

Parent Notification

Written placement decisions and service options shared.

PARTNERSHIP IN EXCELLENCE

Empowering Every Scholar to Excel

For referral forms and program inquiries, contact your school counselor or visit the ECPS website.

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