


ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE

	Process Name:	Gifted Program Expectations
	Key Strategic Priority:	1
	Reference:	Other
	Reference Link:	Gifted Services Handbook
	Function:	Curriculum Instruction & Assessment

Overview

[ARS 15-779.02](#) The state of Arizona mandates that school districts identify students as **Gifted** when they score at the 97th percentile or above in any one of the three approved areas on a state-approved assessment (Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal). Deer Valley achieves compliance by utilizing age-level norms to identify gifted students. Gifted students are automatically placed in our Cluster classrooms and may be eligible for content replacement in ELA and/ or math and enrichment services.


In addition, the state allows local school districts to provide services for students who score below the 97th percentile. In Deer Valley, these highly talented and high-achieving students are commonly referred to as **Talent Pool** students. While not recognized as gifted by the state definition, these Talent Pool learners are eligible to receive gifted services in the form of enrichment when they score between the 94th - 96th percentile. A portfolio of student data is required to place Talent Pool students into accelerated, content replacement courses. Talent Pool learners may receive content replacement services pending program availability.

Local Norming is utilized at our Title 1 schools to ensure students from diverse backgrounds are represented. While not recognized as gifted by the state definition, these students require differentiated instruction based on their significant abilities. Title 1 students receive gifted services in the form of enrichment when they score between the 80th - 96th percentile. Students may qualify for content replacement in ELA and/ or math and enrichment with scores at or above the 88th percentile. A portfolio of student data is required to place Title 1 students into accelerated, content replacement courses. Title 1 students may receive content replacement services pending program availability at their Title 1 school.

School administration is to support each school’s Gifted Specialist with the following expectations:


1. Gifted Specialists are expected to have an Arizona Gifted Endorsement or be actively working on obtaining credentials per the AMG for Gifted Specialist Staffing.
2. Gifted Specialists attend all required Gifted Services and department training.
3. Provide resources and instructional support for Gifted Cluster Teachers
4. Provide ongoing staff development/ updates and conduct a Gifted Services Parent Welcome Meeting at the start of the school year. During the Parent Welcome Meeting, Gifted Specialists provide information about the unique offerings at his or her school and share DVUSD Gifted Services Parent Information (Gifted Website, Gifted Parent Seminars, and Gifted Testing).

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5. Gifted Specialists actively support gifted student placement at their schools. This includes appropriate placement for all students meeting DVUSD Gifted Services program criteria. DVUSD Gifted Programs may include (Gifted Pre-K Academy, Bright Beginnings, Cluster Classroom Placement, SAGE ELA/ MATH, Walk-Up Math, SPARK Enrichment, Renaissance, etc.)
6. Gifted Specialists are responsible for creating and maintaining their school’s Gifted Continuum of Services. This document should be prominently displayed on their school’s Gifted Services website. Gifted Specialists also maintain their school’s Gifted Services Website to ensure that stakeholders can easily access information about DVUSD’s Gifted Programming, Gifted Parent Events, and Gifted Testing.
7. Deer Valley Unified School District provides many programs for gifted and talented learners to reach their fullest potential. Deer Valley utilizes choice programs and focus schools to meet and harness learner needs along a continuum of services spanning Pre-K thru grade 12. Gifted Programs and services include: Schoolwide Gifted Cluster Model, Gifted Pre-K Academy, Bright Beginnings, SPARK Enrichment, SAGE Content Replacement (ELA/ Math), Gifted Cohort, Walk-Up Math, Renaissance Highly Gifted Academies, Advanced Academics, Gifted Cluster Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate – Middle Years Programme, Career and Technical Education, Dual Enrollment.
8. Each school can choose from the list of gifted services models (following the requirements in this document or other AMGs) to offer at their school and at specific grade levels. Different models can be offered at different grade levels based on school/student needs. At least one service must be offered at each grade level.
9. DVUSD Gifted Services utilizes the Schoolwide Gifted Cluster Classroom Model to place students in grades K-8. Placing students in Gifted Cluster Classrooms in grades K-6 is required at all schools. Kinder students should complete state-approved gifted testing and meet program criteria before being placed and grouped in a Gifted Cluster Classroom with other students of high ability.
10. In the Gifted Cluster Model, one teacher (or more) has obtained or is actively working toward earning his or her Arizona Gifted Endorsement. Following DVUSD Gifted Services criteria, gifted and talented students should be placed in the Gifted Cluster Classroom according to the AMG for Gifted Cluster Model/ Classrooms.
11. Gifted Specialists take an active role in supporting gifted testing. Gifted Specialists are responsible for communicating the gifted testing timeline to their campus community (registration dates and dates of testing). Gifted Specialists communicate with the campus principal and grade level teachers to ensure awareness and general understanding regarding testing timelines and procedures. Gifted Specialists provide training to grade level teachers who may serve as co-proctors on gifted testing. Upon completion of testing,

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Gifted Specialists collaborate with the campus principal and teachers to review gifted test results.

12. Out of district test scores are to be sent to the Manager of Gifted & Advanced Academics for review. The Gifted Manager will determine appropriate placement. The Gifted Services Department will update Power School with the newly provided scores. The school’s Gifted Specialist then works with the school registrar to place the student into the appropriate program at that school.
13. Gifted Specialists are responsible for maintaining accurate student records. Gifted Specialists work with the campus registrar to ensure that all relevant gifted records are maintained in Student Cum Files. These records include: Permission to Place Form, Permission to Test Form, Test Result Letters, and Withdrawal from Services Form. Additional forms maintained in the Student Cum File include: Walk-Up Math Student Criteria and related documents as well as the Middle School Math Proficiency Test Permission Form and related documents.


Gifted Endorsements and staffing for all gifted positions:

- Gifted Specialists are expected to have an Arizona Gifted Endorsement or be actively working on obtaining credentials per the AMG for Gifted Specialist Staffing.
- The Manager of Gifted and Advanced Academics must be involved with the hiring of specialized gifted positions (Gifted Pre-K Teacher, Bright Beginnings Teacher, Gifted Specialist, and Renaissance Teacher).
- See AMG_HR_ Hiring Process for Gifted Positions

In DVUSD Gifted Services, our commitment to gifted learners and provision of dedicated gifted programming has established Deer Valley as a flagship district. Our goal is to develop premier gifted services that adapt to the unique needs of our gifted and advanced learners. DVUSD Gifted Services continually updates programming. DVUSD currently offers the following gifted programs:

- Gifted Pre-K Academy
- Bright Beginnings (K-2; Available at select schools)
- SAGE ELA/ Math (3-6)
- Walk-Up to Math (3-6)
- Gifted Cluster Classrooms (K-6)
- Gifted Cohort (Available at select schools)
- SPARK Enrichment (K-6)
- Renaissance Highly Gifted Academies (1-8; Available at select schools)
- Advanced Academics (7-8)

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- Middle School Gifted Electives (7-8)
- High School Offerings (9-12)
 - Gifted Cluster Classrooms
 - Gifted Advanced Placement (AP)
 - International Baccalaureate (IB)
 - Gifted Honors
 - Dual Credit
 - CTE/ West MEC


DVUSD Gifted Programs

School administration, Gifted Specialists, and supporting Gifted Educators are expected to be familiar with gifted service options in DVUSD. Additional information is available on our DVUSD Gifted Services Website at <https://www.dvUSD.org/gifted> . Program information is also available on our DVUSD Portal at <https://portal.dvUSD.org/> . Gifted leaders should remain abreast of current research and best practices in gifted education through professional reading and attendance at state or national conferences.

Gifted Program Requirements

- **Gifted Pre-K Academy**
 - The Gifted Pre-K Academy teacher should have (or be actively working on) obtaining an Arizona Gifted Endorsement.
 - See Gifted Pre-K Academy AMG
- **Bright Beginnings**
 - Bright Beginnings Teachers should have (or be actively working on) their Arizona Gifted Endorsement.
 - See Gifted Bright Beginnings AMG
- **Gifted Cluster**
 - Cluster Teachers should have (or be actively working on) their Arizona Gifted Endorsement.
 - See Cluster Model Classrooms AMG
- **SAGE ELA**
 - SAGE ELA is content replacement and must be taught by a Gifted Specialist.
 - SAGE ELA frequently includes a multiage structure.
 - Writing is taught in the Cluster Teacher classroom to coincide with overarching themes, science, or social studies.
 - Instructional minutes must reflect DVUSD guidance.

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- **SAGE Math**
 - SAGE Math is content replacement and must be taught by a Gifted Specialist.
 - Instructional minutes must reflect DVUSD guidance.
- **Walk-Up Math**
 - Walk-Up Math is content acceleration where students skip their current grade level math instruction and “walk” to the Cluster Teacher or Gifted Specialist classroom for instruction.
 - Instructional minutes must reflect DVUSD guidance.
 - Students are placed according to Walk-Up Math Criteria (*see DVUSD Portal – Gifted Services)
- **SPARK Enrichment**
 - SPARK is an enrichment-based offering and may be taught by a Cluster Teacher or Gifted Specialist.
 - SPARK is taught during the RTI timeframe.
 - Instructional minutes must reflect DVUSD guidance.
- **Renaissance**
 - Renaissance Highly Gifted Academies provide self-contained gifted services on select campuses.
 - Renaissance classes must be taught by teachers who earned or are actively working on their Arizona Gifted Endorsement.
 - Renaissance frequently includes a multiage structure.
 - Instructional minutes must reflect DVUSD guidance.
 - See Renaissance Shared Leadership AMG

Foundational Gifted Frameworks and Strategies

DVUSD Gifted Services requires ALL gifted educators to utilize foundational frameworks and strategies that provide a common language for students.

- **Gifted Frameworks (REQUIRED)**
 - **Depth and Complexity** – The Depth and Complexity Framework provides students with the tools to become independent thinkers and creative problem-solvers. Depth and Complexity provides a common language for all students to better explore and explain their thinking. The iconic prompts of Depth and Complexity challenge learners of all ages and apply to every subject.
 - **Habits of Mind** – The Habits of Mind is a framework that supports the affective needs of gifted learners. The 16 Habits of Mind encourage students to utilize deductive tools, draw on preexisting skills, previous experiences and tendencies,

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when solving difficult problems. The Habits of Mind provide a common language for all students.

- **Gifted Strategies**
 - Curriculum Compacting
 - Flexible Grouping
 - Problem-Based/ Project-Based Learning
 - Learning Centers
 - Enrichment Menus
 - Independent Investigations