

**The Program Renewal Application shall be submitted annually by school administrative units (SAUs) that have an approved Initial Application.**

**All final applications and accompanying approval/non-approval letters and budgets will be posted on the Maine Department of Education's gifted and talented website.**

**DUE by: September 30, 2017**

**RETURN BY EMAIL TO:**  
<mailto:GT.DOE@maine.gov>

**School administrative unit name:** RSU 87

**Name and title of person responsible for gifted and talented program:**

**Nicole Middleswart- GT Coordinator** Austin Walker- GT Coordinator

**Phone number:** 207-848-3383

**Email address:** nmiddleswart@rsu87.org

**CERTIFICATION:**

The statements made herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

John B Backus  
Superintendent Name (printed)

[Signature]  
Superintendent Signature

Date of Initial submission to Maine DOE: Sept. 30, 2017

Date of 1<sup>st</sup> Revision to Maine DOE: Jan. 2, 2018

[Signature]  
Superintendent Initials

Date of 2<sup>nd</sup> Revision to Maine DOE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent Initials

Date of 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision to Maine DOE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent Initials

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:** [GT.DOE@maine.gov](mailto:GT.DOE@maine.gov)

**Reviewed By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Maine DOE Approval:** Joanne Lavee

**Date of Approval:** 1/9/18

### **Program Renewal Application**

To maintain program approval status, a school administrative unit (SAU) must annually report any information that represents **Change** (i.e. an **alteration, addition, or deletion**) to any program category (Maine DOE Chapter 104.14, 1-9) from the reported and approved **Initial Application** (FY2015-16 or FY2016-17).

For detailed instructions on how to complete the Program Renewal Application, please refer to the Instructions document on the Gifted and Talented website <http://www.maine.gov/doe/gifted/programcomponents/forms/index.html>.

1. Provide any changes to the detailed description of the SAU's philosophy for both the gifted and talented academic and arts programs.

NO  
CHANGE

CHANGE

Describe CHANGE here:

- o Academic program philosophy -
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- o Arts program philosophy -

2. Provide any changes to the program abstract for both the academic and arts programs - describe the children to be served and the program(s) to be implemented in the school(s) of the unit.

NO  
CHANGE

CHANGE

Describe CHANGE here:

- o Academic program abstract -
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- o Arts program abstract -

3. Provide a detailed explanation of any changes to the two goals, objectives and activities for the K-12 gifted and talented academic program and two goals, objectives and activities for the K-12 gifted and talented arts program.

NO  
CHANGE

CHANGE

Describe CHANGE here:

- Academics program goals, objectives, activities -
  
  
- Arts program goals, objectives, activities -

4. Provide any changes to the description of the identification procedures for general intellectual ability, academic aptitude and artistic ability for each of the following program components: screening, selection and placement. Also include any changes to the description of the handling of transfer students, exit procedure, appeals procedure and appropriate notifications.

NO  
CHANGE

CHANGE

Describe CHANGE here:

- General intellectual ability identification -

We have replaced our AIMSWeb testing with the NWEAs and have placed that as a screening tool and/or an identification tool.

- Specific academic areas identification -
  
  
- Arts identification -
  
  
- Transfer students -
  
  
- Exit procedures -

- Appeals procedures -

5. Provide a description, including the name, of the staff development that takes place in order to implement the program(s).

NO  
CHANGE

CHANGE

Describe CHANGE here:

6. Provide any changes to the description of the responsibilities of the professional and auxiliary staff listed below.

A. Indicate the professional staff for the K-12 Gifted and Talented Program.

| Name of Staff      | 690 Endorsement Yes/No | Teacher or Administrator | Grade level | Indicate Full- or Part-Time in GT |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nicole Middleswart | No                     | Teacher                  | PreK-8      | Part-time                         |
| Austin Walker      | No                     | Teacher                  | PreK-8      | Part-time                         |
|                    |                        |                          |             |                                   |
|                    |                        |                          |             |                                   |
|                    |                        |                          |             |                                   |
|                    |                        |                          |             |                                   |

B. Indicate the Auxiliary Staff: Educational Technician

| Name of Staff | Role | 690 Endorsement Yes/No | Grade level | Name and position of supervisor | Indicate Full- or Part-Time in GT |
|---------------|------|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|               |      |                        |             |                                 |                                   |
|               |      |                        |             |                                 |                                   |

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |

7. (a.) Indicate any changes to your **Approved Initial application self- evaluation process.**

NO CHANGE

CHANGE

Describe CHANGE here:

(b.) Provide a detailed description of the results/effectiveness of the annual program self-evaluation. *(Note: A summation statement on the effectiveness/success of the district's GT program in the academics as well as the arts will suffice.)*

**Annual Review of GT Program 2016-2017**

**Philosophy-**

After evaluation of our philosophy, the GT team along with administration believes that RSU 87 still has the same philosophy as written.

**Screening, selection and placement of identified students-  
 Academic-**

Through our collection of data from teachers, students and parents, we found that our identification process is effective at this point in time

but we need to provide some explanation to our staff members as to how we screen, identify and place the students based on 67% of our teachers who were unsure of the tools we have been using. The communication between the GT coordinators and the staff implementing the program will continue to be improved to help everyone understand the identification process. Also, underrepresented populations need to be more closely monitored so that we can be sure that this group is being screened and identified appropriately. As of right now 4% of our identified students would be considered underrepresented and we need to make sure that during our current screening process we are more aware of that population.

**Arts-**

In the arts, we found that direct contact with students who were interested was a better way to encourage the students to audition to be a

part of the program. This is a method that we will be using this year to help identify which students qualify for the program. According to

our survey, 100% of students reported that they wish they knew more about the process.

#### Curriculum-

According to our surveys, for each question asked regarding curriculum, about 30% of our students reported being challenged and 67%

reported not feeling challenged at all in the classroom. According to our survey, the teachers in our district have varying views of the curriculum that we offer in terms of its opportunities to truly challenge the students. We do not pull kids out of class for GT but instead require the teachers to differentiate for our identified students. In evaluation of the curriculum, it seems as though the teachers need more resources and ways to enhance our current curriculum to support our identified students. We plan to have clearer goals for our students this year and ask the teachers to seek help where they are not sure how to differentiate for the student.

#### Implementation of the program-

##### Academic-

We have found that we need to make some major improvements in our implementation of our GT program for our students. Based on the

surveys sent to students, only around 56% of the students knew what their goals were in the program and felt challenged in their subject areas. Staff members reported that they were neutral about how the goals were implemented in the classroom and updated throughout the year. Based on this information we are planning to create more experiences for the students throughout the year and make sure to hold the teachers responsible for differentiation and enrichment in the class by providing clearer goals and suggestions for the classroom. Our PLC time, once a week, is a place where these goals and other strategies can be discussed. We also plan on doing check-ins periodically with teachers and students to make sure that everyone is feeling that the program is helping the students. We also plan to involve the student in the process much more than the past year because more than 67% of the gifted and talented students didn't know what their goals were and most commented that they wish they knew what it was that they were doing in GT. The staff reported that 33% of them always were implementing the student goals and 50% thought that the goals were somewhat implement. We plan to create a form that teachers will fill out in every trimester to illustrate what they are doing in the classroom to help each particular identified student and then checking with the student to make sure that they see the value in what they are being asked to do. This is where we would like to take our program this year.

Also, we will be using our guidance counselor to help make sure we are meeting the social/emotional goals of all identified students and

making sure that the students understand the program and our striving towards reaching their full potential in the classroom.

Another area that we identified as weak is our tool for showing progress. 75% of our students did make some gains but we found that some of our students showed a significant drop in their scores. We need to offer the teachers more resources and tools to help teach these gifted students. With the adoption of the NWEAs as our assessment tool, we can monitor the student progress and more accurately analyze student achievement. For those identified in the un-assessed areas, we are working to develop a system to monitor their progress. We plan to monitor more closely our student progress each trimester and to intervene when progress is not being made. Our new district assessment tool will aide us in this change.

#### Arts-

According to the surveys, 100% of students would like to see more opportunities to enhance their artistic learning through the GT program.

We plan to reach out more to the community to find ways to bring the arts to our students so that they can go deeper in their learning about music and art.

#### Goals & Objectives-

According to the teacher survey, most people reported a neutral standing on the question of implementing the goals. 100% of the students

however reported that they were not aware of their goals for the year. Based upon this information, the committee realized that this year there needs to be a focus on the goals and checking the goals to update them more than once a year. This was in the plan for last year based on the yearly assessment but was not carried out in the way that it should have been. We plan to create the goals at the beginning of the year and then do trimester checks with the teachers and the students to make sure that the goals are updated regularly and that both students and teachers are comfortable with these goals and understand what they are working towards.

#### Evaluation-

We need to begin our evaluation process earlier in the spring each year so that we have ample time to collect data to help enhance our

program. This will give us more time to find new ways to help our teachers and students.

#### Professional Development-

In evaluation of our professional development opportunities, we noticed that although we did offer development in the area of

differentiation, we need to communicate that the purpose of some of that differentiation needs to be focused on our GT students instead of just our lower achieving students. We plan to provide development opportunities throughout the year and also to survey the teachers periodically to see what types of strengths and weaknesses they may have and use the people that are already doing it well as resources.

**Budget-**

We have designed a more comprehensive budget plan in hopes of bringing more in depth experiences to our students.

(c.) Include how program effectiveness was determined.

8. Provide a justification/description of the items included in the proposed budget in number 9.

Stanford Full Battery Test- 10 129.50

OLSAT- 10 99.95

We use these two tests to identify students for placement in our program. We use them because they test all academic areas and we can use the information to place students.

Library Books 100.00

These would be to add options to our school library for the students to find books that are challenging but at the same time are content appropriate for their age.

Field trip to Farnsworth Art Museum 166.09

Field Trip to Umaine Art Museum 86.96

Bangor Symphony Day 143.27

Science Conference 138.72

Challenger STEM Program 139.46

Guest Performance- Steiner 150

Guest Performance- Renaissance 150

Visiting Guest Choral Conductor 100

Guest Artist 150

Guest Band Conductor 150

The field trips are designed and chosen to help our GT VPA students experience music in a more diverse and deeper way. Our guest performances are designed and chose for the same reasons.

9. For those school units requesting approval of *allowable program costs* for State subsidy, please complete the following budget information. Amounts budgeted for the SAUs Gifted and Talented Program must be reported in the NEO (New Educational Onotology) financial system as part of the Annual Budget Reporting.

*NOTE: To be approved as an allowable cost for the current school year, all personnel listed below must be appropriately certified/endorsed by the application deadline of September 30.*

**Professional Staff Costs**

| Professional Staff Name | Elementary<br>(salary with benefits) | Secondary<br>(salary with benefits) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nicole Middleswart      |                                      |                                     |
| Austin Walker           |                                      |                                     |
|                         |                                      |                                     |
|                         |                                      |                                     |
|                         |                                      |                                     |
|                         |                                      |                                     |
|                         |                                      |                                     |
|                         |                                      |                                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>         |                                      |                                     |

**Auxiliary Staff Costs**

| Auxiliary Staff Name | Elementary<br>(salary with benefits) | Secondary<br>(salary with benefits) |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                      |                                      |                                     |
|                      |                                      |                                     |
|                      |                                      |                                     |
|                      |                                      |                                     |
|                      |                                      |                                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>      |                                      |                                     |

**Independent Contractor Costs**

| Independent Contractor Name | Area of expertise | Elementary<br>(contract amount) | Secondary<br>(contract amount) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Justin Zang                 | Music-Vocal       | \$200                           |                                |

State of Maine  
 Education Program Department of Education  
 Renewal Application 2017-18

Gifted and Talented

|                       |            |             |  |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|--|
| The Maine Steiners    | Music      | \$150       |  |
| The Maine Renaissance | Music      | 150         |  |
| Dana Ross             | Music-Band | \$200       |  |
| Sue Shapiro           | Artist     | \$100       |  |
| Tricia Richardson     | GT Teacher | \$250       |  |
|                       |            |             |  |
|                       |            |             |  |
|                       |            |             |  |
|                       |            |             |  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>       |            | <b>1050</b> |  |

Please list individual product names and costs associated with the district's Gifted and Talented Program.

**A. Educational Materials and Supplies:**

| Elementary: Name of Material/<br>Supply | Cost | Secondary: Name of Material/<br>Supply | Cost |
|---|------|--|------|
|   |      |  |      |
|   |      |  |      |
|   |      |  |      |
|   |      |  |      |
|   |      |  |      |
|   |      |  |      |
|   |      |  |      |
|   |      |  |      |
|   |      |  |      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                         |      | <b>Subtotal</b>                        |      |

**B. Other allowable costs (i.e. field trips, student fees, membership):**

| Elementary: Item name               | Cost   | Secondary: Item name | Cost |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|------|
| Field trip to Farnsworth Art Museum | 166.09 |                      |      |

|                                 |               |                 |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
| Field Trip to Umaine Art Museum | 86.96         |                 |  |
| Bangor Symphony Day             | 143.27        |                 |  |
| Science Conference              | 138.72        |                 |  |
| Challenger STEM Program         | 139.46        |                 |  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                 | <b>674.50</b> | <b>Subtotal</b> |  |

**C. Student Tuition (i.e. regional programs/ computer programs, college courses in identified area):**

| Elementary: Program name | Cost | Secondary: Program name | Cost |
|--------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
|                          |      |                         |      |
|                          |      |                         |      |
|                          |      |                         |      |
|                          |      |                         |      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>          |      | <b>Subtotal</b>         |      |

**D. Staff Tuition/Professional Development:**

| Elementary: Course/Workshop Title | Cost | Secondary: Course/Workshop Title | Cost |
|-----------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
|                                   |      |                                  |      |
|                                   |      |                                  |      |
|                                   |      |                                  |      |
|                                   |      |                                  |      |
|                                   |      |                                  |      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                   |      | <b>Subtotal</b>                  |      |

**E. Totals**

| <b>Subtotals from charts above</b> | <b>Elementary Costs:</b> | <b>Secondary Costs:</b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Professional Staff</b>          |                          |                         |
| <b>Auxiliary Staff</b>             |                          |                         |
| <b>Independent Contractors</b>     | 1050                     |                         |
| <b>A. Materials/Supplies</b>       |                          |                         |
| <b>B. Other Allowable Costs</b>    | 674.50                   |                         |
| <b>C. Student Tuition</b>          |                          |                         |
| <b>D. Staff Tuition/PD</b>         |                          |                         |
| <b>Total</b>                       | 1724.50                  |                         |