

Administrator's Page: Maine Snapshots in Gifted Education

Would it surprise you to know?

- AP and IB programs are not considered gifted and talented programs.
- Gifted students should do challenging work in lieu of the regular class curriculum or assignments. Their work is not an add on.
- If you have a K-12 art and music program in your district, you are required to have a gifted and talented visual and performing arts program.
- You need at least three tools to identify gifted and talented students. In the academic areas, one tool must be an objective tool. The other tools may be subjective.
- You need at least three tools to identify gifted and talented students in the arts. All tools may be subjective. An objective tool is not required.
- We target 3-5% of the local population as gifted and talented in academics and 3-5% of the local population as gifted and talented in the arts.
- Just because the gifted and talented teacher works effectively with students does not mean the gifted and talented teacher works effectively with adults.
- There are a variety of programming models: pull out services, push in services, cluster grouping, consultation model and blended models.
- Even students in the primary grades are gifted and talented.
- In order to receive a one-year waiver for the gifted and talented program, the district must apply by September 30th.

Maine myths surrounding gifted education

- Parent and student surveys provide all the information we need in order to determine our program's effectiveness.
- There is really no difference between high performing and gifted students.
- The district says we do not identify young students because the state says we do not need programs until third or fourth grade.
- Nobody in the primary grades is gifted.
- The gifted and talented teacher can only work with identified students.
- If we say we differentiate in the regular classroom, then surely we differentiate appropriately for gifted and talented students.
- Pull out programs is no longer considered effective gifted and talented program models.
- We do not have real gifted and talented students in our district.
- Field trips and competitions make up our gifted and talented program.
- GT services may happen after school or on the weekends.
- We can only have a program for gifted and talented students if we have an endorsed gifted and talented teacher.