

## BCSS GIFTED PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

The Barrow County School System strives to provide academically sound learning opportunities in a safe, quality environment for all, in order to develop students' skills and knowledge to prepare them for successful productive lives.

All students who are eligible for gifted services and whose participation has received parental consent receive at least five segments per week (or the yearly equivalent) of gifted education services, using one of the approved delivery models. Parents/guardians are provided notification about the types of services to be offered annually. All students in kindergarten through twelfth grade are eligible for testing.

At the elementary levels, these services are provided through the Resource Model, Advanced Content, Cluster Grouping and Collaboration. At the middle school level, services are provided through the Advanced Content, Cluster Grouping Model and Collaborative Model. At the high school level, services are provided through the Advanced Content Model, Cluster Grouping Model and Advanced Placement Model. The Innovative Model can be used if a plan is submitted and approved by the district Gifted Program Coordinator.

Based upon the unique needs of individual students, the Mentor/Internship model may also be utilized at the high school level.

All schools consider the individual student's interests and needs when determining the content area(s) in which the student will be served as well as which delivery model to provide. Curricula for gifted program students are reviewed at least annually.

The curricula for gifted students align the gifted education goals with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). Curriculum objectives focus on developing cognitive learning, research and reference, and meta-cognitive skills at each grade grouping, using principles of differentiation.

A description of the differentiated curricula used for instruction of gifted students is documented by the teacher in lesson plans and submitted to the district Gifted Program Coordinator. It is reviewed and revised (as needed) at least annually.

Extracurricular activities provide vast opportunities for students to pursue areas of interest to them while interacting with peers who have similar interests. In addition, extracurricular activities often develop leadership abilities, boost self-esteem, and provide students with positive role models. Activities are provided at each of the schools.

## BCSS CONTINUATION POLICY

The Barrow County School System is aware of how important parent involvement is in the education of students. The progress of each student receiving gifted education services is reviewed throughout the year. By the end of the school year, continuation of gifted services is determined. If the requirements for gifted education services have been met, new or revised program descriptions about the types of services to be offered annually will be provided. If the requirements *have not* been met, the parent is still provided new or revised program descriptions but is also informed in writing that the student is under a probationary period for one year, during which time the student is in jeopardy of losing gifted education services. Criteria the student must meet to continue receiving gifted education services are outlined in the letter provided to the parents/guardians.

Any Barrow County student may continue to participate in the gifted program if he/she meets the following criteria:

- Grades K-3 Achieves Satisfactory, Meets, or Exceeds in classes where they are being served for gifted education
- Grades 4-5 Satisfactory performance in the Gifted program - Maintains at least a C average in the gifted course(s) during the year
- Grades 6-8 Achieves grade of C or higher in classes where they are being served for gifted education
- Grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Enrollment and successful completion Cluster/Honors or AP classes per year.

If it is determined after the probationary period that the student has met the criteria for continuation, he/she may continue in the gifted program and a program description is provided to the student and to the parents/guardians. If at the end of the probationary period, the student does not demonstrate satisfactory performance in gifted education classes and gifted services seem to be no longer appropriate, a final review is held by the Eligibility Committee or Review Team to determine if services will be continued or terminated. The parents/guardians and student are notified in writing of the decision made by the Eligibility Committee or Review Team.

If the student's services are terminated, the parents are also informed that the student must meet the gifted program continuation criteria in order to resume receiving gifted services.

Students may be withdrawn and re-enter the program once per school year. Students remaining inactive for two consecutive school years must be re-evaluated to determine continued eligibility.