



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2019 Committee Recommendations for PA Gifted Education Updates

September 14, 2022

State Board Recommendation 1: Funding for Gifted Education

The committee encourages a discussion of “adequacy” as it relates to school funding, followed by the provision of adequate resources for efficient management at state and local levels.

Response:

PDE provided additional funding for contracted professional development and technical assistance.

PDE submitted a Javits application for a 5-year grant.

PDE is unaware of additional funding available for gifted services in PA.

State Board Recommendation 2: Acceleration and Enrichment

The Department of Education should create guidance for definitions of acceleration and enrichment.

Response:

PDE provided guidance through intentional professional development in the practice of acceleration and enrichment across the Commonwealth through multiple mediums.

Enhanced knowledge and understanding of acceleration and enrichment as evidenced in Gifted monitoring and Gifted Assurance Plans.

Built capacity of information sharing, training and support through the gifted liaisons at the Intermediate Units with direct support to LEAs.

State Board Recommendation 3: Gifted Comprehensive Planning

The Department of Education should create guidance for comprehensive planning that promotes the use of evidence-based models to deliver services for gifted education.

Response:

New required comprehensive planning approvals for Chapter 4 and Chapter 16 pertinent to Gifted Education.

Required descriptions of Gifted Services per LEA in Comprehensive Plans.

Trained the 29 IU Gifted Network Liaisons on the components of the gifted plans to assist regional LEA's

State Board Recommendation 4: GIEP Requirements

The Department of Education should create guidance on differentiation of GIEP requirements for students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Response:

Language in Chapter 16 requires LEAs to provide gifted evaluations and program services in K-12. Regulatory language does not distinguish different GIEP criteria at different grade spans. GIEP criteria must follow current language in Chapter 16.

PDE provided guidance on the compliant process for exiting students who will remain gifted; however, no longer need *pecially designed instruction*. October 2021 PIMS data indicated 3,532 students who were identified as gifted, but not in need of specially designed instruction

State Board Recommendation 5: Twice Exceptional

The Department of Education should create guidance on the implementation of the Evaluation and Reevaluation provisions at 22 Pa. Code, Chapter 14, § 14.123(b) and § 14.124(b) and the Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Gifted Multidisciplinary Reevaluation provisions at 22 Pa. Code, Chapter 16, § 16.22(j) and § 16.22(d) as they pertain to students who may be twice exceptional. The guidance should encourage school districts to follow best practice in conducting both evaluations during a simultaneous 60-calendar day period.

Response

PDE released a Basic Education Circular in August of 2020 on the process of documenting the gifted components for dual exceptionalities in a single evaluation report, IEP required gifted components and considerations for caseload assignments.

Created annotated gifted documents (GWR, GIEP,NORA) for training purposes and use annotated forms created at PaTTAN for the Chapter 14 requirements.

As of October 2021, there are 2390 dually exceptional learners.

Gifted monitoring includes reviews of learners' files who are dually exceptional.

PDE reviews policies and procedures during monitoring processes as well as in Special Education plans.

Gifted Advisors supports Special Education Advisers with learner files that are dually identified to assist with the compliance of Chapter 16 within a Chapter 14 document.

State Board Recommendation 6: Gifted Resources

The Committee requests that the Department of Education maintain timely gifted education resources on its website.

Response:

Penn*Links for the new school year Gifted Compliance Monitoring for Continued Improvement are posted on or before August 1.

The IU Gifted Network Liaisons notify BSE whenever liaison roles change. BSE updates the regional support network on the BSE Gifted webpage within 72 hours of notification.

Revisions to the FAQ's and Gifted Program Guidelines are in progress.

State Board Recommendation 7: Comprehensive Plan

The Committee recommends that each school district post its gifted education plan, developed per 22 Pa. Code, Chapter 16, § 16.4, on its website for public access.

Response:

Chapter 4 and Chapter 16 require Comprehensive Plans be posted on the district's website for 28 days prior to submitting to PDE for approval. Once approved the Comprehensive Plan is posted to the district website. The Gifted Assurances Plan is located within the Comprehensive Plan.

State Board Recommendation 8: Professional Development

The Department of Education should hire an advisor dedicated to professional development for gifted education. Responsibilities assigned to this individual should include providing professional development to school district and Intermediate Unit staff as designed through a yearly professional development plan.

Response:

PDE contracts with two IU Gifted Network Liaisons for .50 FTE for each side of state.

State Board Recommendation 9: Teacher Requirements

The Committee should transmit concerns presented by stakeholders related to qualifications of gifted educators to the Board's Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee and should work in collaboration with that Committee to consider these issues as part of the current review of Chapter 49 (Certification of Professional Personnel). Among these concerns were suggestions that all classroom teachers and school administrators receive required training in gifted education that addresses the delivery of gifted services, the psychology of the gifted, and recognizing students who potentially are gifted for identification with training provided either during preservice education, as part of the credits required to earn Level II certification, or through ongoing professional education. Other concerns raised by stakeholders included a suggestion that educators who deliver gifted services be certified in Gifted Education or requiring that teachers of the gifted at least are certified at the level in which they are delivering services.

Response:

In collaboration with PA Association for Gifted Education, Gifted in PA team, Gifted Network Liaisons and State College have developed a Principals Learning and Understanding Gifted (PLUG) course that has been approved through PILS. This course will be operational in October 2022

Gifted Endorsement Programs are available at:

- Bucks County IU 22-currently not operating
- Cabrini University
- Clarion University of PA/Main
- Delaware County IU 25 – currently not operating
- Millersville University of PA
- Seneca Highlands IU 9
- Slippery Rock University
- University of Pittsburgh/Greensburg
- Wilkes University

State Board Recommendation 10: Experimental Models

The Department of Education should include school districts that have been approved for experimental models in cyclical monitoring.

Response:

PDE includes all districts in the random selection for Gifted Monitoring.

Currently, there are no experimental programs to consider.

State Board Recommendation 11: Twice Exceptional

The Department of Education and local school districts should update terminology in documents pertaining to gifted education that reference “dual exceptional students” and replace that with the term “twice exceptional students.”

Response:

PDE is required to follow the regulatory language and reference dual exceptionalities in all formal correspondence. However, twice exceptional is a nationally accepted term and is referenced during more informal discussions.

Other PA Gifted Education Updates

Enhanced Communication and Networking

- Publish Gifted Newsletter (Spring & Fall) 5,417 views Totals
- Quarterly IU Gifted Network Liaison Meetings
- Attended NAGC
- Presented at PAGE, PDE Conference, SAS, Special Education Leadership Academy
- Two administrative sessions- 425 total registrations

Focus on Best Practices for Gifted Learners/Programming

- Conducted two book studies with IU Gifted Network Liaisons/School District
- Hosted a Gifted Show case (116 attended)
- Developed GIEP Goal Clinics (over 100 teachers were registered for each sessions)
Once a month from October to April
- Developed multiple asynchronous and synchronous sessions around gifted documentation- (Number attending Bootcamp 125, GWR 92, Goals 83
- Developed and presented sessions for parents and entire faculties

Contact/Mission

For more information on the 2019 Committee Recommendations for PA Gifted Education Updates please visit PDE's website at www.education.pa.gov

The mission of the Department of Education is to ensure that every learner has access to a world-class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. Further, the Department seeks to establish a culture that is committed to improving opportunities throughout the commonwealth by ensuring that technical support, resources, and optimal learning environments are available for all students, whether children or adults.