

## Gifted and Talented Programs

### Academic

Sumter School District provides a comprehensive program for Gifted and Talented students designed to challenge and enrich student learning within the context of a rigorous curriculum while meeting individual student needs and maximizing their potential. Gifted students may demonstrate high performance ability or potential in multiple academic areas. Administrators, parents, teachers, and students may make referrals for students to be screened. All students who are referred will be screened during the first quarter of each school year (or shortly after moving to the district during the school year) to determine their eligibility.

Students may qualify automatically with an aptitude or IQ score at the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher for their age group. If students do not qualify solely on aptitude, this process will be used for screening:

- **Dimension A – Aptitude/Reasoning Abilities** Students must demonstrate high aptitude (93<sup>rd</sup> national age percentile or above) in one or more of these areas: verbal, nonverbal, quantitative and /or a composite of the three.
- **Dimension B – Academic Achievement** Students must demonstrate high achievement (94<sup>th</sup> national percentile or above) in reading and/or math as measured by a nationally normed or South Carolina statewide assessment instrument. The most recent scores for each test are considered for meeting criteria in this area. Winter MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) data will only be considered when it is the student's first administration of the current school year.
- **Dimension C – Intellectual/Academic Performance** Rising third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade students may be eligible to take the South Carolina Performance Task Assessment in March if they have already met the criteria in Dimension A or Dimension B. Students who have completed the fifth grade and up can meet the criteria in Dimension C with a 3.75 GPA on a 4.0 non-weighted scale.

Students must meet the criteria in two of these three dimensions in order to participate in the Gifted and Talented programs.

Results of private testing will not be accepted for the identification of Gifted and Talented students.

In the fall of each year, the State Department of Education provides aptitude and achievement testing for students in grade two to determine their eligibility for Gifted and Talented programs. These results are available in mid-January.

Students in grades two\* through five who meet state criteria will be placed in the QUEST program. The QUEST program uses the state approved resource room/pull-out model. Students are taught by state-endorsed Gifted and Talented teachers with a teacher-pupil ration of 1 to 20 or less. In grade three, students attend QUEST for at least 125 minutes each week. Students in grades four and five attend for at least 200 minutes per week. \*Second grade students identified through state-mandated testing in the fall will be served beginning in the second semester of that year and will attend QUEST classes for at least 60 minutes each week.

Middle and high school students identified as Gifted and Talented are served in Honors courses for English, math, science and/or social studies. These classes meet daily and are taught by state-endorsed Gifted and Talented teachers with teacher-pupil ratio of 1 to 25 or less.

### Artistic

Sumter School District provides a variety of programs designed to develop the unique artistic talents of eligible students. The district offers an intensive three-week summer program for rising fourth through twelfth grade students in the artistic areas of visual arts, theatre and music. Students may be referred by administrators, parents, teachers, and students. Referrals are accepted from November through January of each year. Students who are referred must

participate in a state-mandated screening/audition process in order to determine their eligibility for program. This process runs from January to March.

Middle and high school students may also have opportunities to participate in various Honors courses and/or performance groups that meet during and after school.

If you have questions regarding Gifted and Talented programs, please contact the district's coordinator of gifted education at 469-6900. Please visit our website at [www.sumterschools.net](http://www.sumterschools.net).