Gunnison Watershed School District

Gifted Education Programming

Identification & Services Guidelines

Steps leading to…

Referral,
Identification,
Programming,
Progress Monitoring,
And Monitoring Status

….for K-12 Gifted Education

(October 2009)

"Gifted children mean those persons between the ages of four and twenty-one whose abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment are so outstanding that they require special provisions to meet their educational needs." (Colorado Gifted-Education Guidelines and Resources)

Step One: Referral

Teachers, parents, or the individual student may make a referral for gifted education services beginning in kindergarten; however, formal assessment and identification typically begin in second grade. The classroom teacher has primary responsibility for differentiating instruction, and for recognizing and nurturing academic strength areas for all students in the classroom. Students that the teacher recognizes need additional services beyond the regular classroom will be referred to the gifted and talented teacher for testing and evaluation.

When a student is referred for evaluation, the child's parents are provided with a copy of the Identification & Services Guidelines and the Gifted Education Services Flowchart.

Step Two: Identification

Students in grades K-12 may be formally identified at any time. A formal evaluation is required for students PK-1 to determine if a student meets Early Access requirements. Students who are formally identified as eligible for the gifted education program will receive gifted and talented education services and an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) will be developed.

The gifted education program currently encompasses two subject areas: language arts and mathematics. For a child to be formally identified in a given subject area, three indicators of giftedness are assessed: intellectual aptitude, academic achievement, and academic behavior in the classroom. Students who demonstrate intellectual aptitude by attaining a score of 95% or greater on the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), demonstrate high academic achievement by receiving a score of 95% or better on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Test, and show evidence of giftedness in the classroom in language arts or math will be formally identified and receive gifted education programming. In evaluating each student's eligibility for gifted education services, evidence for each of the three indicators are presented and evaluated. The evaluation will include a process of "triangulation", in which the body of evidence including all three indicators will be considered in total. Identification is not based solely on any one indicator.

Evaluation of test scores and classroom behavior, and formal identification of the student for gifted education services is performed by the student's Gifted Identification Review Team. This team includes the classroom teacher, the gifted and talented teacher, principal, or other district professionals, as needed.

Upon completion of the evaluation, a determination letter indicating the student's scores and the eligibility decision will be sent to the parents. Prior to any changes in educational programming or services, parents will be notified.

Step Three: Programming

Assessment results and classroom performance are utilized by the gifted and talented teacher to match the student's intellectual aptitude with the appropriate academic program. Formally identified students will receive gifted and talented education services through the Gifted and Talented Program in their area of giftedness. In addition, formally identified students will be placed on an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) which will outline the student's area of giftedness, establish measurable goals and objectives, and identify specific programming needs.

A limited number of advanced students who are not formally identified may qualify for gifted and talented classroom services on a space-available basis subject to the discretion of the gifted and talented teacher. An ALP is not required for these students.

Step Four: Progress Monitoring

As formally identified students advance through the grade levels, their academic progress is regularly monitored by the gifted and talented teacher to ensure that Adequate Yearly Progress is being made by each student. Progress monitoring includes results from classroom performances, achievement grades, standardized testing results, progress towards goals, demonstrated accomplishments and evidence of gifted program participation.

Identification of academically gifted students in the Gunnison Watershed RE-1J School District is on-going & multi-faceted. Students may be re-evaluated and formally identified for gifted and talented education services at any time. The progress of students who demonstrate high academic achievement, but do not meet intellectual aptitude criteria will be reviewed and monitored regularly.

In addition, further testing may be recommended at any time by the gifted and talented teacher, administrator, parents, teachers, Gifted Identification Review Team, or the student if the body of evidence does not provide a complete understanding of the student's programming needs.

An elementary student may be recommended for further testing when:

- The student qualifies for gifted programming in a previous district
- The student's aptitude results are questioned
- The student suspected of being gifted with learning disabilities
- The student may be academically underachieving

Lastly, the Right of Appeal

If there is a disagreement with an identification decision, a right of appeal is available. A parent, student, teacher, or administrator may initiate the appeal process by notifying the Director of Special Services. The appellant will then meet with the building's Response to Intervention Problem Solving Team to review data, introduce additional information, and decide a further course of action.

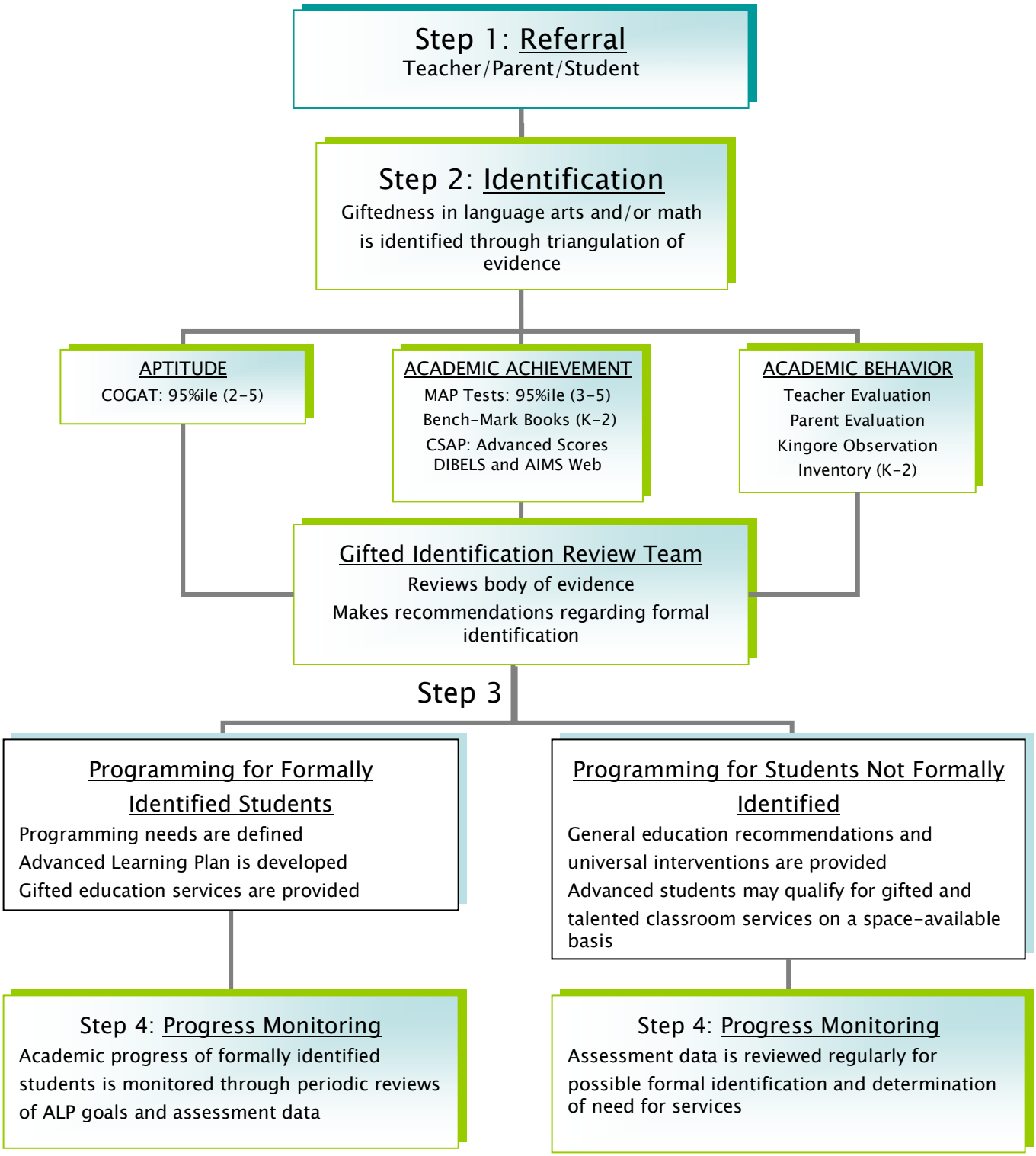
Resources

Gunnison Watershed School District Gifted Education
http://www.gunnisonschools.net/index.aspx?nid=251

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented
http://www.coloradogifted.org

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Gifted and Talented Program
http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/index.htm

CDE Gifted and Talented Publications
http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/publications.htm

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)
http://www.nagc.org

Gunnison Watershed RE1J
Gifted Education Services Flowchart