Criteria for Specialized Gifted Program

The Specialized Gifted Program is for a student who has been identified as gifted and whose needs may be better met in a specialized setting. The program is in English only for grades 1 through 4. French immersion gifted or English gifted (with core French) is available from grades 5 through 12.

Evidence is required that interventions at Tier 1, 2 and 3 have been applied over time based on the learning needs of the student. Based on evidence from these interventions, it is expected that the student will benefit from a specialized program at this time.

Designation: Primary, Junior, Intermediate, Secondary

Class Size: Grades 1-3; up to 20 students

Grades 4-8; up to 25 students

Resources: One teacher with special education qualifications

Referral Criteria:

Cognitive Profile Primary (grades 1-4)

- Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT-7) with scores at the 99th percentile on two of the three scales and at least the 90th percentile on the third scale; OR
- WPPSI-IV, WISC-V or Stanford-Binet yielding a Full Scale (FSIQ) score or General Ability Index (GAI) score at least at the 99.6th percentile;
- School psychology staff are responsible for reviewing psychological assessment information in order to consider interpretive data (e.g., cultural-linguistic considerations, behavioural observations, validity statements by clinician) when determining if cognitive criteria are met.

Junior/Intermediate (grades 5-8)/Secondary (grades 9-12)

- CCAT-7 with scores at the 98th percentile on two of the three scales and at least 90th percentile on the third scale; OR
- WISC-V or Stanford-Binet yielding a full scale (FSIQ) or General Ability Index (GAI) at least at 98th percentile;
- School psychology staff are responsible for reviewing psychological assessment information in order to consider interpretive data (e.g., cultural-linguistic considerations, behavioural observations, validity statements by clinician) when determining if cognitive criteria are met.

Academic Profile

- requires intensive enrichment in one or more cognitive domains (e.g., critical thinking) and/or academic areas (e.g., math, literacy); and
- some may require intensive support in various academic and/or executive functioning skills.

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Social/Behaviour Profile

 may demonstrate a range of emotional, social and/or behavioural responses (e.g., disengagement, frustration, low self-esteem, anxiety, withdrawal, inattention, distractibility) but they are not the primary presenting concerns.

Required Documentation

Elementary (grades 1-8)

- CCAT-7 or psychological assessment report (verification from a school psychologist or psychological associate that the psychological assessment continues to be valid and/or should be considered to be meeting criteria based on interpretive data);
- educational assessment (WIAT-III preferred) within the last 12 months (reading comprehension and math problem solving composites, writing sample in English when applying for a placement in the Regular English program or in French when applying for a placement in the Early French Immersion program demonstrating the student's written expression skills); and
- Learning Support Services referral form detailing interventions at the Tier 1, 2 and 3 levels, to address the challenges and rationale as to why student needs may be better met in a specialized program setting (elementary only); and Secondary (9-12)
- CCAT-7 or psychological assessment report (verification from a school psychologist or psychological associate that the psychological assessment continues to be valid); and
- A completed OCDSB referral form: Specialized Gifted Program (secondary only).

Additional Documentation (if available or appropriate)

- current report card or preschool report;
- current IEP;
- additional assessment reports (e.g., most recent medical, speechlanguage/communication, Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI), occupational/physiotherapy, social work);
- list of community agencies involved with student (e.g., Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre, Youth Services Bureau).

The student's progress will be monitored regularly and reviewed through the annual IPRC process to ensure appropriate placement to support student learning needs.

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