



## Fast Facts About Gifted

**What is Gifted Education?** Gifted education describes the services and programs that schools provide to meet the special needs of gifted learners.

**How is a child selected for Gifted Education?** There are clearly defined procedures, which guide the school's Child Study Team through the process of screening and evaluating students who are potentially gifted. The screening process begins when the student's teacher, parent or other qualified person observes outstanding academic, creative or other superior abilities when compared with others of the same age group. The reporting of these observations initiates the process of collecting necessary data to determine eligibility. Among the data collected are the results of a pre-screening assessment.

Florida defines a gifted child as "one who has superior intellectual development, capable of high performance." The eligibility requirements are defined in State Rule 6A-6.03019. This rule states that a child is eligible for gifted education if the student demonstrates the following:

- Need for the program as documented by the student's teacher or other qualified personnel
- Evidence of a majority of characteristics of gifted children (state approved checklist)
- Measure of very superior intellectual development

The Hernando County School District has an approved district-wide "Plan B" to identify potentially gifted students from under-represented populations. In the State of Florida, underrepresented populations are defined as Limited English Proficient (LEP) and students whose families are receiving free or reduced lunch (low socio-economic status). Each district creates its own set of Plan B criteria based on the needs of the individual district. Plan B criteria is submitted to the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education of the Department of Education for final approval.

**How Does Gifted Education Differ from the Regular Educational Program?** Gifted education is designed to meet the needs of the gifted learner. This includes a need for a more rapid pace of instruction, a greater focus on higher order thinking skills, more sophisticated products/performance, more complex tasks, an emphasis on multiple perspectives and an exposure to a broadened scope of information. To further ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of the gifted learner, the teacher(s), parent(s), and student together develop an Education Plan (EP) for the individual gifted learner.

### **What are the benefits of Gifted Education?**

- Educational plans are developed to meet the student's individual needs (psychosocial, emotional, physical, academic).
- Educational plans are implemented by a professional staff trained in understanding the nature and needs of gifted learners.
- Opportunities are provided for gifted students to interact with other gifted students.

*Excerpted from "Nature & Need of Gifted Students," Hernando County Gifted Endorsement Course, 2008.*

***If you have questions, please contact the Director of Exceptional Student Education at 352-797-7022 or contact the Quest Academy Gifted Advisory Council at [Info@QuestGAC.org](mailto:Info@QuestGAC.org).***